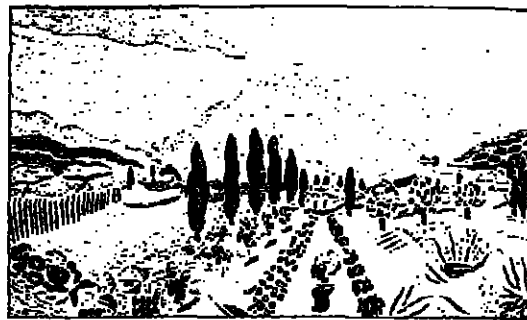


La Belle France: it captures the imagination, it enriches the soul... so join Weekend Times for a brief armchair holiday across the Channel

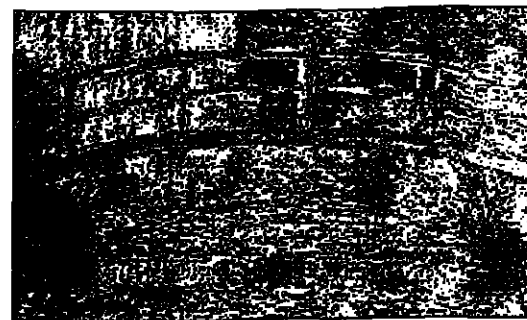
THE IMPRESSIVE

Clarrie Grundy is so smitten with the Auvergne that she wants to forsake Ambridge; Libby Purves is hooked on Euro Disney; Terence Conran can't resist the markets. Then there's opera, boules, chateaux and — of course — food and wine. All in Weekend Times



THE IMPRESSED

The soft sound of shovel dislodging soil, the warmth of the sun on the shoulders, earth against the knees: this is gardening. Richard Goodman tells how a small patch of France stole his heart and changed his life. Weekend Times, page 1



THE IMPRESSIONIST

The grid of plots and beds, the rose arches and clematis towers, the water lily pool with its wisteria-clad Japanese bridge: this is Monet's garden. Francesca Greenoak tells how 15 years' work restored the artist's paradise. Weekend Times, page 13

President puts US jobs first

Bush team is split in Rio treaty battle

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DEEP divisions were exposed within the Bush administration yesterday over whether the United States should sign a key treaty at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro.

A leaked memorandum disclosed that William Reilly, head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, had issued a last-minute appeal to Washington to accept small changes to the biodiversity convention, so that the United States could sign it and international anger over President Bush's hardline stance could be defused. His request, however, was dismissed.

The convention protecting plant and animal species and their habitats is one of the summit's principal documents, but the administration announced a week ago that it would not sign it because its provisions could harm America's booming biotechnology industry and Washington could find itself paying huge Third World bills.

White House officials not only rejected Mr Reilly's plea, which was made on Wednesday night, but his confidential memo was leaked, leaving him in what would appear to

be a barely tenable position. Mr Bush was yesterday obliged to express his full support for Mr Reilly, who is America's chief negotiator at the Earth summit. He condemned the leak to *The New York Times* as "terribly offensive". In Rio, Mr Reilly issued a terse statement, saying it was "most unfortunate that someone within our government chose to leak information about these most important efforts that demanded diplomatic discretion".

Mr Bush insisted that he had a superb record on environmental matters and that he would go to the summit next week "on the offence, not defence. Because I will not sign a treaty that in my view throws too many Americans out of work. I refuse to accept that kind of criticism from what I consider some of the extremes in the environmental movement, internationally or domestically," he said.

Mr Reilly's memo to Clayton Yeutter, the White House domestic policy chief, pointed out that Washington's refusal to sign the biodiversity convention was "the major subject of press and delegate concern here". He said Brazil had offered to "fix" the treaty so the United States could sign, and he passed on to Mr Yeutter a list of "relatively small fixes of language" that he had proposed. These, Mr Reilly said, would remove "troublesome clauses that create anxieties about intellectual property rights, technology transfer, concessional terms, and the regulation of biotechnology".

The memo said that the proposed amendments, "while not making everyone in the US government totally happy, would address the critical issues that have been identified. They are," Mr Reilly said, "worth a last ex-

amination." He asked Washington to give him an immediate decision as to whether the treaty was due to begin yesterday.

The New York Times said that it was given a copy of the memo by one of Mr Reilly's administration opponents. The office of Dan Quayle, the vice-president, came under immediate suspicion. He is responsible for promoting America's economic competitiveness, but his office denied responsibility.

"The modifications were minor and it was communicated to Reilly that this doesn't come close to fitting the bill," one official said. "The response was what you'd expect. A flat no," said another.

In Rio Mr Reilly had already begun telling reporters on Thursday morning that there could be a compromise over the convention. He was then told by other journalists that his request had been dismissed by the White House, so he changed his remarks. "He led people to believe we were going to change our position. He is the one who got himself way out on a limb," one administration official said yesterday.

Mr Reilly, former president of the World Wildlife Fund, has clashed repeatedly with the White House and other administration departments over the past year. He has lost almost every important battle as Mr Bush, in a presidential election year, has consistently put the demands of business and industry before environmental concerns.

Mr Bush said yesterday that America had spent about \$800 billion (£444 billion) in the last decade on environmental improvements.

Continued on page 10
Leading article, page 15



Feathers in his cap: the Dalai Lama wearing a headdress presented by Brazilian Indians in Rio de Janeiro

Bank jobs saved as Lloyds abandons £3.9bn takeover

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LOYD'S Bank has pulled out of the £3.9 billion takeover battle for Midland Bank, saying that the deal had become too expensive. The surprise withdrawal has saved more than 20,000 jobs in the banking industry and 1,000 high street branches which Lloyds planned to close.

The move leaves the way clear for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to complete an unopposed takeover of Midland by the end of the month. The merger will create one of the biggest banks in

the world with assets of £145 billion and 3,300 offices in 68 countries, with its headquarters in London.

Lloyds withdrew its offer for Midland after a board meeting yesterday morning. The directors decided that the bank could not afford to increase its offer to at least £20p a share, or £4.3 billion, in response to the Hongkong Bank, which raised its bid to 480p a share on Tuesday.

Lloyds' original offer was last month referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, unlike the bid by the Hongkong Bank, given the go-ahead by the European Commission. The board knew it must raise its offer to tempt Midland shareholders to reject the Hongkong bid and wait for the mergers commission decision in August.

On Thursday, however, it became clear to Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds' chairman, and Brian Pitman, the chief executive, that the bank could not afford the necessary increase when they looked at the figures with Barings, their merchant bank. Sir Jeremy said the bid had become too expensive for Lloyds shareholders. "Most of the spoils of the merger would have gone to Midland's shareholders."

He added that Lloyds were also concerned about the ef-

fect of any preconditions that may have been imposed by the MMC, such as the disposal of branches and businesses, if it had cleared the bid.

Lloyds' offer was referred to the commission by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, after the Office of Fair Trading voiced fears that the merger would reduce competition in the small business market. The combined bank would have had a market share in the sector of more than 30 per cent.

The failure is a bitter blow to Sir Jeremy Morse, one of the most respected City bankers, who is due to retire next spring. It comes six years after he was frustrated in his attempt to take over Standard Chartered, the international banking group.

He said that he did not regret his decision to bid for Midland. "If you are trying to do something you regarded as very important but saw there was a less than even chance of succeeding, you do not give it up," he said.

Sir Peter Walters, Midland's chairman, said: "I am delighted that this source of uncertainty has been removed. This is good news for our shareholders, customers and staff."

Geoffrey Dickens, Tory MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, was among several MPs who yesterday accused both papers of intolerable intrusion into the private lives of the prince and princess. "They should leave this lovely girl alone," he said.

The royal couple are expected to spend the weekend together at Highgrove, hoping to avoid the prying eyes of a press.



Sir Jeremy Morse

Thatcher resumes EC fight in Lords

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher and a group of her former Cabinet colleagues want to take their seats as life peers as quickly as possible because they want to use the Lords to campaign against the Maastricht treaty, it emerged last night.

The former prime minister, Norman Tebbit, Nicholas Ridley and Cecil Parkinson hope to speed through the formalities for entering the upper house now that the dissolution honours list has been announced.

Once there, they plan to give strong support to Eurosceptics in the Commons by urging the prime minister to use Denmark's "no" vote to the EC treaty to guide the Community in a new direction. They want to be at Westminster soon after Britain takes over the presidency of the EC next month.

The Lords procedures are more lax than in the Commons which means that anti-EC peers will have virtually unlimited scope for trying to amend the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty if the government maintains its resolution to take it through parliament. One source said Mrs Thatcher and her cohorts could make a lot of trouble for the government.

Mrs Thatcher's crusade is likely to be met by her old sparring partners, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Peter Walker. The honours list announced yesterday includes peerages for all former Cabinet ministers who retired at the election, with the exception of Michael Foot.

Mrs Thatcher said last night: "I am very much looking forward to being part of parliament once again."

Thatcher heads list, page 5
Name game, page 5

Hospitals may survive

London's teaching hospitals could all survive in spite of the widespread expectation that one or more would have to close as part of a package of efficiency measures. However, two hospital groups announced plans to cut hundreds of jobs and to close beds. Page 2

Exit Finney

The West End production of *Reflections* is expected to close after Albert Finney refused to appear, saying he had not been paid for some of the nine weeks the play has been running. Page 2

The Times

Circulation of *The Times* rose in May to 388,196 copies a day, an increase of 1,938 over April. Figures for newspaper circulation in May show that sales of *The Times* closest competitors fell over the same period. Sales of *The Independent* were 386,227, a drop of 3,296, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation figures. *The Guardian* suffered a more severe drop, by 13,636 to 415,426.

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Lamont urges curb on centrists

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, seized on the Danish referendum result yesterday to urge a curbing of the centralist ambitions of the European Commission.

While he stopped short of advocating the "fresh start" in European treaty negotiations called for in the early day motion backed by about 70 Conservative MPs, Mr Lamont signalled that their Euro-scepticism extends all the way up the party. He insisted, in a speech to his Kingston-upon-Thames constituency party: "The decision

of the Danish people to reject the Maastricht treaty provides a timely reminder that there is nothing inevitable, or predetermined about the future development of the European Community."

Using the code words favoured by Euro rebels, Mr Lamont called for a Community believing in "free trade, not protection, competition, not over-regulation". He was strong in his support of John Major, saying: "The prime minister is quite right to give a commitment to continue with the ratification of the

Maastricht treaty. Our European partners intend to ratify the treaty and Britain would lose all influence in shaping events if we just walked away."

But he blamed the Danish referendum result on the European Commission overreaching itself, criticising "the seemingly endless and unquestioning pressure from Brussels always to extend the competence of the Community and to seek to tackle every problem at a European level and from the centre". He

Continued on page 18, col 1

Royal couple caught in book war crossfire

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BOOK wars have broken out between two rival Fleet Street newspapers, following a familiar battle plan and with the Prince and Princess of Wales caught in a hail of potentially lethal crossfire.

Tomorrow, *The Sunday Times* begins serialisation of a new biography of the princess by Andrew Morton, which a subtle and carefully orchestrated publicity campaign has dubiously built up into the publishing sensation of the year. The newspaper has paid an estimated £50,000 for the serial rights, and has spent almost as much again on press, television and poster advertising.

Yesterday, the *Daily Mail*, which had shown interest in serialising the Morton book but was outbid by *The Sunday Times*, resorted to a classic spoiling tactic in an attempt to spike

the guns of the enemy. It found another book containing damaging personal allegations, and began serialisation two days ahead of *The Sunday Times*.

According to the *Mail*, the princess is alleged to have attempted suicide in 1986, driven to the gesture, it is claimed, by the emptiness of her marriage and by the princess's continuing friendship with another woman. The author of the book, which has not yet appeared but which will be published in the United States, is Nicholas Davies, the former foreign editor of the *Daily Mirror*, who was a confidant of Robert Maxwell, but was dismissed after accusations that he had been involved in arms dealing for the Israeli government. Neither Mr Davies nor the *Mail* claims to have interviewed the princess.

Nor, indeed, does the rival camp, although Mr Morton's publishers

did not go out of their way to deny reports circulating in recent weeks that the princess had approved proofs of his *Diana: Her True Story*. Mr Morton has since denied that he interviewed the princess, or that she had co-operated in the writing, or that she had read the text, almost the only area of the matter on which he and Buckingham Palace agree.

Mr Morton has interviewed the princess's family, friends and others, and says that his book is "straightforward old-fashioned journalism". Palace spokesmen, embattled and embittered by the tide of alleged disclosures that began with a volume of cocktail-circuit gossip by Lady Colin Campbell, the self-styled socialite — a volume that has been enjoying healthy sales — have withdrawn their heads beneath the parapet, and are declining to make any comment on either book for fear that even a denial

might add dignity to what they see as a sordid commercial battle being played for increasingly large stakes.

Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, did his best to put a brave face on having been scooped by the *Mail*, describing yesterday's rival effort as "an excellent starter for our main course" and claiming that his own paper's disclosures would be yet faster. "It is a story of a marriage which has collapsed, which has no future," Mr Neil said.

Geoffrey Dickens, Tory MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, was among several MPs who yesterday accused both papers of intolerable intrusion into the private lives of the prince and princess. "They should leave this lovely girl alone," he said.

The royal couple are expected to spend the weekend together at Highgrove, hoping to avoid the prying eyes of a press.

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Laugh? I nearly suffered a major affective psychiatric disorder

In a bit worried about Julia... She's smiling again



WHAT is happiness? A loving companion, a healthy bank account and a good digestion? A holiday in the sun, a walk with the dog? Or is it a psychiatric disorder, characterised by particular facial expressions such as smiling and involuntary noises known as laughter?

Happiness is far too romantic a concept, says a psychologist at Liverpool University. Dr Richard Bentall has proposed that the condition be included in future editions of the major psychiatric diagnostic manuals under the new name "major affective disorder, pleasant type".

He says that happiness shares many of the characteristics of other psychiatric illnesses: it is relatively rare with a cluster of identifiable symptoms which often cause sufferers to become irrational. Happy people have trouble remembering

You don't have to be mad to be happy, but you probably are, according to Dr Richard Bentall. Alison Roberts keeps a straight face

mildly miserable events and often overestimate their capabilities, says Dr Bentall, who describes himself as a happy person. "I am extremely disturbed in that respect," he said.

Writing in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* he says that laughing spontaneously at a joke is reactive happiness, followed by a "rapid remission of symptoms". Spontaneous and prolonged hilarity is endogenous happiness, or joy from within, less often followed by improvement.

People who experience high intensities of happiness often report high intensities of other emotions, suggesting that happiness may be related

to a "neurophysiological state of disinhibition". In other words, elation can seriously damage your health and joyful hedonism can be a life-threatening condition.

With furrowed brow and tongue in cheek he says that there is clinical evidence of a link between happiness and bodily indulgence. Julius Caesar supposedly asked for the company of fat men because they were happy and good fun, after all.

Quite what Basil Fawlty, John Cleese's fictional and terminally unhappy hotelier, might have made of Dr Bentall's conclusions is uncertain. "Fun?" he once remarked, with

a glance at Sybil. "Oh yes: I remember fun..."

Dr Bentall, however, is only half joking. Happiness could be classified as a psychiatric disorder if doctors were interested enough.

"We do not study happiness because we actually like to be happy. Psychiatrists make value judgments about what is mental illness. People say that those with psychiatric disorders are irrational. Actually there is very good evidence that people who are happy are less rational than those who are depressed."

"It is very difficult to define psychiatric disorders and to say whether someone is ill or not. People assume that mental illness is a matter of fact and a matter of science. My point is that it involves moral judgments. Happiness could be a disorder if we decided that it ought

to be although I am not seriously suggesting that we should." Dr Bentall said that he did not expect his report to be taken seriously, because happy people would not seek treatment.

Experimental work carried out at Liverpool University shows that people with depression are much more realistic about their lives and capabilities. "Normal people overestimate the amount of control they have over events. Depressed people are better in many ways at judging what other people think of them. In some senses happy people delude themselves into thinking that the world is actually a nicer place than it really is," said Dr Bentall.

The epidemiology of happiness is another neglected area. It may be catching — clearly no laughing matter.



Julius Caesar: offered as evidence of theory

Teaching hospitals could survive review

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LONDON teaching hospitals might survive in spite of the widespread expectation that the over-supply of facilities in the capital will force one or more of them to close. An enquiry into the future of London's health service, chaired by Sir Bernard Tomlinson, has no plans to recommend a closure to ministers.

Closure of one or more teaching hospitals has been seen as essential to end over-provision. Yesterday, two hospital groups, the Charing Cross and University College,

announced plans to shut beds and cut hundreds of jobs because they have lost out in the competition for patients under the new NHS market.

But members of the enquiry team, set up by the government last October, believe that wholesale closure of a big hospital could be averted by judicious pruning of weaker departments in all of them. A recommendation to shut all the services on one site and sell it is "not likely," sources said.

Instead, the enquiry's work is focusing on how to secure the good departments in each hospital, possibly by moving them to neighbouring hospitals, while shedding others. Space freed by such moves might be sold or leased.

The attraction of this solution is that it would provide a streamlined routine service for the local population, while preserving the specialist departments for which London has an international reputation.

The move would also minimise the political fall-out associated with a wholesale closure. Members of the enquiry team are said to be acutely aware of the need to carry politicians and doctors with them.

The enquiry has reached no firm conclusions and opinion could change, sources stressed. The health department yesterday denied a report that Sir Bernard had been asked to complete his work two months early

because of the growing pressure on London's hospitals.

At least 100 beds are to go from University College and Middlesex hospitals, which are administered together, including 30 beds from the women-only Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital. They are part of a £3 million package of cuts to be recommended to next Thursday's meeting of Bloomsbury and Islington health authority.

The authority, which has London's smallest local population, has so far signed contracts covering only one fifth of the £140 million income it needs if it is to remain viable. It is already implementing cuts worth £4.5 million but could be £19 million short when all the contracts are signed. A spokeswoman said up to 200 posts would go.

Nearly 200 jobs are also to be lost at Charing Cross and Westminster hospitals, which are facing a £4 million deficit. The cuts are required in advance of the opening of the new hospital in Chelsea.

Virginia Beardshaw, director of the Kings Fund London Commission, an independent think tank examining the long term future of services in London, said: "The problems are absolutely inevitable because the costings in the capital are so dire. The average cost of treating a patient in London's teaching hospitals is £1,052 compared with £560 in outer London. It is the market beginning to work."

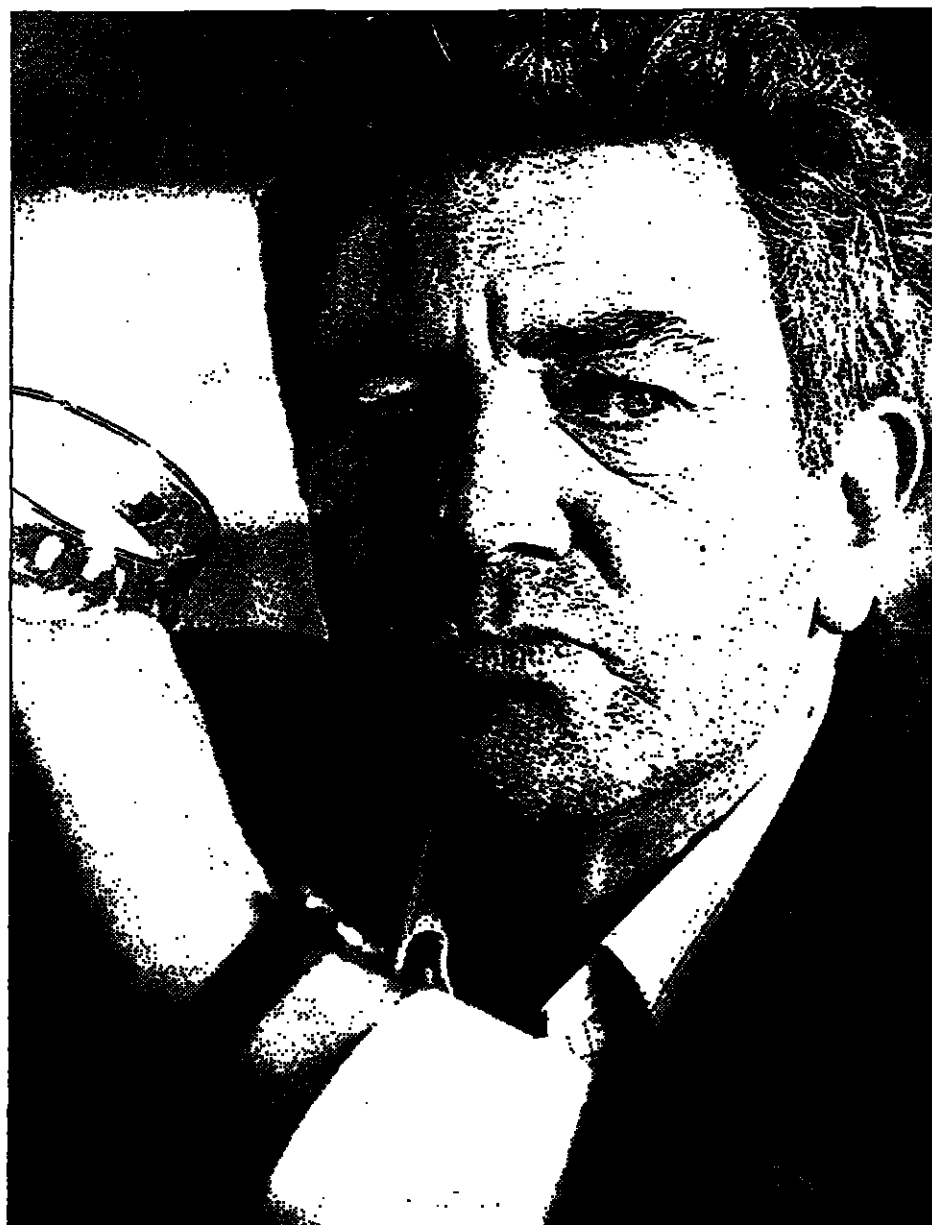
Rent enquiry pledged

MORE than a million statutory tenants, whose rents are set by government rent officers, are to have all rent increases during the past four years investigated by the government (Rachel Kelly and Arthur Leathley write).

Tony Baldry, junior environment minister, told MPs yesterday in a Commons debate on tenants' rights that the government would honour its pledge to look at the position of statutory tenants. Some tenants protected by

the 1977 Rent Act have seen rent increases of up to 50 per cent in the past four years since the introduction of the 1988 Housing Act.

Dudley Fishburn, MP for Kensington, who has been campaigning against what he describes as disturbingly high rent increases, said: "This is good news for London. At the moment, a protected tenant cannot be booted out; instead he is bankrupted out. This is not what the law intended."



Finney: announced on radio his decision to quit over pay dispute

Curtains for play as Finney exits

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Vaudeville Theatre in the West End closed last night because Albert Finney, the star of its current show, refused to appear, claiming he was owed payment by the producers for some of the nine weeks the play had run.

Reflected Glory, Ronald Harwood's play about a dramatist who writes a play about his litigious brother, is not to be performed tonight, and is expected to close.

In a statement issued 45 minutes before the curtain was due to go up, Mark Furness, the producer, said: "Due to universal bad business in the West End the decision has been reluctantly

made to pull the show to avoid further losses."

Mr Finney had already announced on a radio show yesterday morning that he was leaving. "I discover that I have not been paid for some time and have decided to withdraw my services," he said on Michael Parkinson's LBC programme.

Mr Finney's salary is not widely known, but he could be expected to be paid £3,000 a week plus 10 per cent of box office. Laurence Evans, his agent, claimed he had been paid some but not all of what he was owed. Mr Finney had given Mr Furness until 5.30 on Thursday

night to pay him what he was owed, but he had failed to do so. "As far as Albert is concerned, it's all over," said Mr Evans.

Mr Finney's decision may have pre-empted an inevitable early end for a play by a leading British playwright which had had generally good reviews. The closure could herald more in the coming days and weeks. A spokeswoman for Mr Furness said the play had had audiences of as little as 30 per cent. Many plays are struggling to survive on barely 20 per cent in one of the worst post-war slumps the West End has experienced.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Halford says police abused sick list

Police officers on Merseyside used early retirement through sickness as a way of avoiding disciplinary action against them, Alison Halford, the suspended assistant chief constable, said yesterday. She told the industrial tribunal in Manchester, where she is claiming sex discrimination, that there was a "desperate abuse" of the system. Miss Halford, 52, who took over as head of force complaints and discipline in 1987, said: "A perfectly fit officer, the moment he was facing discipline, suddenly produced a medical note which immediately meant management backed off, hands up, couldn't do anything else and that officer left. That was dreadful for the morale of the force."

Questioned about her handling of force discipline, she said that the problem of sickness and early retirement was not being tested properly. Miss Halford said if an officer went sick he would not be called before the force medical officer for 91 days. There were some extreme situations where officers were on the sick list on full pay for two years. "Nobody was asking 'Do we really have to employ these officers on full pay without knowing what the diagnosis is?'" she said. The tribunal went into camera to hear evidence on cases dealt with by Miss Halford as head of complaints and discipline. The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

School selection plea outrages parents

Governors at an opted-out school in Cumbria have outraged parents and local headteachers by going ahead with plans to introduce selection, in spite of strong opposition in the area. Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith, a comprehensive school that became grant-maintained in January, will now ask the education department for selective status, after often-heated local talks that ended on May 29. The governing body, which originally favoured 11-plus tests, voted this week to select pupils on the basis of primary school records and interviews with parents and children.

David Robinson, head teacher of Ullswater High School, Penrith's other comprehensive school, said that the decision was a defeat for parental choice and that the selection method planned was particularly objectionable.

Coach belts wanted

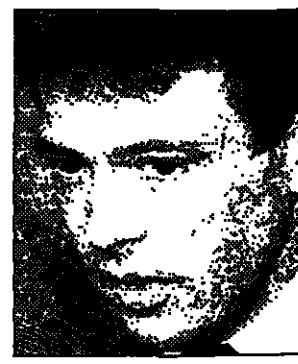
A renewed call was made yesterday for the compulsory wearing of seat belts on buses and coaches in the wake of the coach crash in co. Antrim on Thursday evening, in which five people were killed and 41 injured. The crash happened near Carrickfergus when the vehicle, which was on an outing organised by a local branch of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, careered out of control after its brakes had apparently failed. Yesterday a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast said that the risk of serious injury and death in crashes of this kind could be considerably reduced if seat belts were made compulsory. John Halliday said that seat belts would not only prevent people being flung forward inside vehicles, but also prevent them being thrown out onto the road.

Convict escapes in taxi

Police were last night searching for a prisoner who escaped from custody on his way to court to face charges for armed robbery committed during an earlier escape. Michael Johnson, 25, was on his way from Bullingdon prison near Bicester, Oxfordshire, to Reading magistrates' court when he vanished. Johnson is thought to have produced a knife, grabbed the taxi taking him to court and driven off taking a prison officer with him. The officer was later found safe and the car discovered abandoned in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Johnson escaped from Maidstone prison, Kent, last year after being sentenced to seven and a half years for offences involving firearms, theft and burglary.

Jaguar murder appeal

Alastair Bell, right, whose wife Penny was found murdered in a west London car park a year ago today issued a fresh appeal for witnesses to come forward. Police believe that up to 50 people were in a leisure centre car park at Gurnell Grove, Greenford, on the morning she died. Mrs Bell, a mother of two, was stabbed 50 times as she sat in her Jaguar XJS. Mr Bell said: "Someone must know something."



STV judgment reserved

Lord Milligan has reserved his judgment in the £600,000 defamation action brought by Antony Gecas against Scottish Television following the screening of the documentary *Crimes of War*. The judge has heard a total of 17 days of evidence in the case, which opened in Lithuania in February and then continued before the Court of Session in Edinburgh. Lord Milligan will have to read over 2,000 pages in 17 volumes of recorded evidence and consider a week's summing up by counsel before issuing his written judgment, which is not expected for at least two months. Mr Gecas, 76, a retired mining engineer now living in Edinburgh, denied allegations in the documentary that he took part in the massacre of thousands of civilians during the second world war.

UK beaches 'stable'

Standards of bathing water at Britain's beaches had remained relatively stable over the past three years, the European Commission said in its annual survey, published yesterday. The Commission, which relies on national monitoring agencies for its report, said that a slight decrease in the quality of Britain's beaches in 1991 was probably due to poor weather. On its map of Britain the Commission marked red "danger" boxes on a cluster of beaches in the North West, from Salford to Fleetwood, and including Blackpool. The North Wales coast also fared badly as did Cleethorpes in Humberside and the Southwick and South Lancing beaches near Brighton.

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heritage li
to stop floo
of art sale

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City marches to

Mellor drops heritage list to stop flood of art sales

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Mellor, the national heritage secretary, acted yesterday to stop the rush by state home owners to sell their assets. He announced that he has abandoned his predecessor's proposal to establish a list of vital works that can never go abroad.

But the minister was unable to guarantee the estimated £20 million needed for the government to step in and buy the items threatened with export. The only likely source of funds will be from the national lottery, which is not due to start until 1994.

"Listing would diminish the rights of owners to dispose of their property as they saw fit," the minister said. "Prohibiting the export of outstanding heritage objects would distort market values."

Ray O'Shea, president of the Antique Dealers' Association, said: "We are delighted at his decision, and that he has addressed the issue so quickly. It will remove all the uncertainty in the trade."

Charles Allsopp, chairman of Christie's, said Mr Mellor's announcement would "remove the anxiety felt by owners of major works of art that their possessions could have been arbitrarily and drastically reduced in value by being listed."

Lord Salisbury, president of the Historic Houses Association, said: "When owners have the misfortune of having to sell chattels to pay for upkeep of their properties, it would have been self-defeating if the capital receipts had been halved."

Tim Renton, the former arts minister, had caused panic among the heritage world and anger among owners last December by announcing his plan to consider the listing as a way to stop the flood of valuable items leaving the country.

The view in the art world was that the system set up by the Waverley Committee in the 1950s was still workable. Here, works are assessed for their aesthetic and historic importance and then placed under temporary export bans, giving museums a chance to match the selling price. Members of the art world said that the difficulty was that because museum grants had been frozen at paltry levels since 1985, museums were unable to take an active part in the system. The National Gallery's grant is £2.75 million while the British Museum receives £1.4 million.

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Style revolutionaries: fashions ancient, above, and modern, below, grace riders at the TT circuit, open to spectators between races

TT races promise broken records and broken limbs

AT DOUGLAS harbour a ferry from the mainland disgorges another wave of motor cycles that purr, burble and snarl their way into town, adding to the 9,000 machines already on the Isle of Man.

There are hippies on Harleys, veterans riding with pride their restored British classics and a legion of modern knights of the road in full body armour of reinforced leather, heads concealed in helmets that would befit a moon walk. The annual gathering for the island's TT competitions, arguably the toughest road races in the world, has begun.

Every bed in the island is filled and a tent village has sprung up near the grandstand. The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company is working round the clock to transport at least 35,000 spectators and the orthopaedic ward of the island's hospital has ceased normal operations in preparation for its seasonal workload.

The TT course has often been condemned as too dangerous — almost 38

A Manx surgeon prepares to re-set the broken bones of TT contention, Ronald Faux reports

miles of highway that winds, dips and climbs around the island in a swift procession of tight bends and open straights.

Accidents will happen and one rider in this week's classic race on the southern circuit died when he fell off his machine and was hit by another rider.

Tony Green, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Noble's hospital, is already treating a crop of casualties, including a rider aged 75 who came to grief in the classic. Last year the hospital averaged six major trauma cases on each of the 14 days of the TT. Mr Green expects to spend up to 12 hours a day in the operating theatre. "The first thing they always ask is 'How's my bike?' then 'Please, don't cut up my leathers,'" and

only then, "What about me?" he said. The riders do not allow the prospect of a crash to spoil their enjoyment. One rider with half a dozen TTs behind him explained: "Bike racing is a good deal more dignified than bull fighting and probably not as dangerous as climbing Everest. Riding a machine in top tune at speed is to be really alive."

This year riders from 17 countries will compete in the eight races. There is great excitement over the strong possibility that Joey Dunlop will add to his previous 13 victories and set a new record — and about how Steve Hislop, who holds the absolute lap record of 123.48mph, will perform on his rotary-engined Norton.

The chances are good that a famous name of British motor cycling, long eclipsed by Italian and Japanese machines, may be restored on the island it once dominated. Among TT enthusiasts that would be worth the risk of a few broken bones.

Sport, page 28



Ward prosecutor offered evidence

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR lawyer criticised by the Court of Appeal for his handling of evidence in the Judith Ward case said yesterday that he had offered to give evidence to the judges but was not called.

The court's judgment, delivered on Thursday, specifically criticised Michael Bibby, then a member of the DPP's staff and now a senior Crown Prosecution Service official, and Brian Walsh, QC, who has become a crown court recorder, for the way they handled and misrepresented material.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Walsh said: "Some weeks ago I made an offer to the Director of Public Prosecutions to give evidence at the hearing of this appeal. I was perfectly willing to do so. The director decided that it was

not necessary to call me."

In reply, a spokeswoman for the DPP said: "We understood that it was left to our discretion to decide whether to call Walsh or provide a witness statement. We did not feel that he could add anything."

Yesterday, a lawyer for Gilbert McNamee, sentenced to 25 years as an IRA bomber, wrote to the DPP asking for full disclosure of material on his case in preparation for a new appeal.

Three Surrey detectives involved in questioning the Guildford Four are to face an Old Bailey trial on April 20 next year. Thomas Style, 58, John Donaldson, 56, and Vernon Atwell, 51, are accused of conspiring to pervert justice by fabricating notes of interviews.

City marches to echo of distant drum

By ROBIN YOUNG

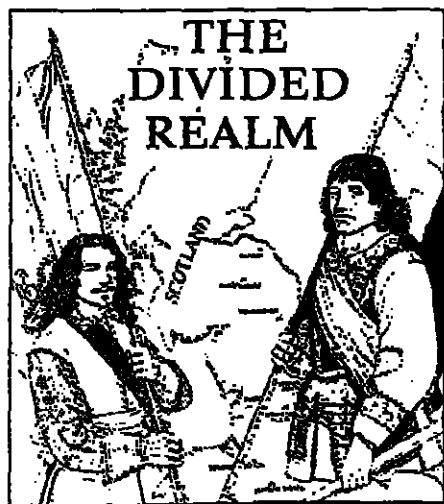
The citizens of Coventry will be on parade this morning to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the city's refusal to admit King Charles I at the start of the civil war.

The occasion also marks the opening of the city's Whitefriars Museum of the Royal Armouries travelling exhibition of civil war arms and armour, which is sponsored by The Times.

The exhibition, the first to be sent on tour round Britain by England's oldest museum, features more than 60 items from the collection normally kept in the Tower of London. They include King Charles I's own priceless gilt armour, the finest Stuart armour in existence, small cannons made for his son, later Charles II, to play with, and pikes up to 18ft long.

Today's parade in Coventry, led by Ian Roxburgh, the city's chief executive, will include 40 members of Colonel Hampden's Regiment of Foot in their civil war uniforms, and freemen and councillors in their ceremonial robes. It will also include many people who share the names of those mentioned in contemporary accounts.

Whitefriars itself, previously a Carmelite friary, was the scene of the first deaths in the skirmishes that preceded the outbreak of war in 1642, when Lady Hales and another bedridden old lady who had been living with her in the building for five years were killed by a stray cannon ball. The procession will pass



THE DIVIDED REALM

On Monday, free for all readers of *The Times*, is a double-sided colour wallchart to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the English civil war. Ideal for children, this chart is aimed at key stages 2 and 3 of the national curriculum. It vividly displays the divided realm of 1642: its faiths and fighting men; its beliefs and battlefields; its king and chronology. The chart links too with the Royal Armouries travelling Civil War exhibition, co-sponsored by *The Times* and touring the country until January 1993.

through Coventry's shopping centre to the Council House where it will be greeted by the present Lord Mayor, Don Ewart, and Christopher Davenport, a Birmingham student playing the role of his namesake who was Lord Mayor of Coventry 350 years ago and took the decisive to stand against the King's men.

After speeches, Stanley Bacon, the town crier, will call on the citizens to once again follow their brave

Lord Mayor to defend the city walls, and the procession will proceed to Whitefriars.

The civil war exhibition remains at the Whitefriars Museum, Coventry, until July 26. It will visit Nottingham from August 2 to September 20, Worcester from September 26 to January 3, and finally Cirencester from January 9 to March 28 next year.

Battle for king and country, *Saturday Review*, page 16

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Submarine officer guilty of negligence

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL Navy trainee commander whose submarine sank a fishing trawler received a severe reprimand at his court martial yesterday after being found guilty of three out of six charges of negligence.

Lieutenant Commander Peter McDonnell will have the reprimand on his record for five years, which could affect his chances of further promotion. Christine Russell, whose husband James, 36, was one of four men killed in the incident in the Firth of Forth in November 1990, said Lt Cdr McDonnell had been made a scapegoat.

Mrs Russell, from Carradale, Strathclyde, said: "I think others as well as Peter McDonnell should have been in the dock. It's not fair that he's the only one. He has been made the scapegoat."

There were two more senior officers on board HMS *Trenchant* when the submarine snagged the nets of the trawler *Antares*: the trainee commander's course teacher and the submarine captain. However, the court martial was

told that Lt Cdr McDonnell had been in charge of the submarine when the incident happened.

Last night, a navy spokesman said that Admiral Sir Jock Slater, Commander-in-Chief Fleet, had no plans to take disciplinary action against other individuals.

Lt Cdr McDonnell, 33, who is now executive officer of another nuclear-powered submarine, HMS *Turbulence*, said in a statement after the court martial in Devonport: "I am very relieved that my court martial is finally over. It has been hanging over me like a black cloud for the last 18 months since that dreadful night."

The statement, read by Lt Cdr Jonathan Hattersley, his defence representative, said: "I think the families of those tragically lost know how I feel about it. I would just like to say my thoughts are with them at this particular time. It has also considerably affected my own family. I hope the strain on all of us will now begin to lift."

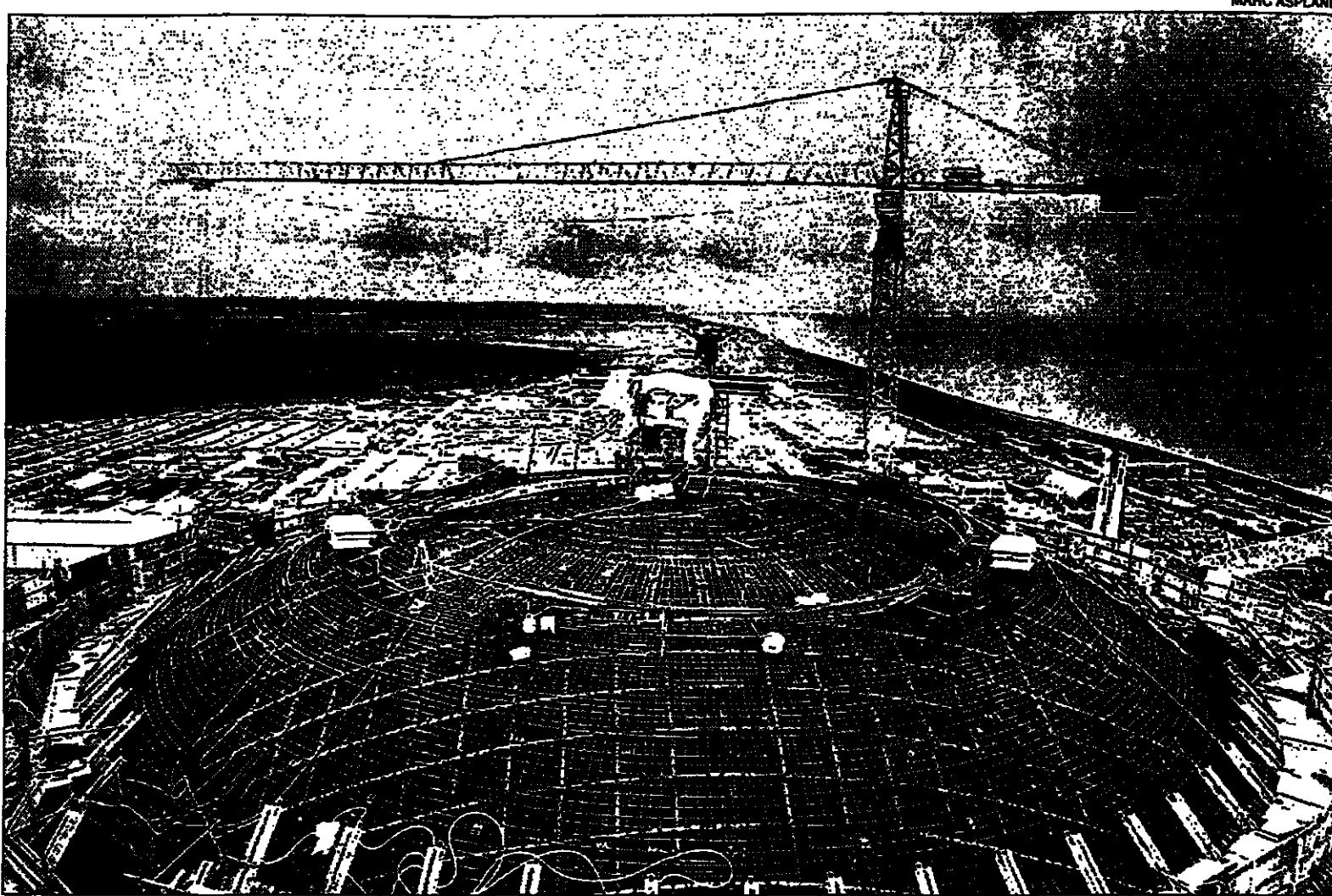
George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock

and Doon Valley, said the proceedings were a whitewash. He intends to demand a Commons statement from Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, on Monday.

Mr Rifkind, he said, should explain why no action had been taken against the senior officers in overall charge of the submarine and why Lt Cdr McDonnell was allowed to be in sole command at the time.

The court martial was ordered after the Scottish prosecuting authorities ruled against pressing charges of manslaughter. A Scottish fatal accident enquiry concluded there had been human error.

Yesterday, on the third day of the court martial, Lt Cdr McDonnell was convicted of failing to realise how close the *Antares* was to his submarine and allowing the trawler to stay on a collision course for 18 minutes without verifying its range. He was also found guilty of being unaware of the presence of a second trawler, the *Heroine*. He was cleared of three other charges of negligence over safety drills.



Taking shape: eight months ahead of schedule, the £2 billion Sizewell B reactor towers 230ft above the Suffolk landscape. The dome, one and a half times the size of St Paul's Cathedral, is made from concrete 3ft thick. It should be completed in 1994

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Clarke faces tough decision if police lose certificate

Derbyshire police are likely to lose their efficiency certificate. Stewart Tandler explains what that would mean and questions the way efficiency is measured

WHEN inspectors of constabulary were first mooted in 1856, town halls and county councils were in uproar at the prospect of central control of their new police forces and the "degradation" of an inspection. Their fears were well-founded: the first inspections were failed by seven county forces, a number of big borough forces such as Stockport and Warrington and more than half of the 86 medium-sized borough forces.

Now, more than 100 years later, Derbyshire police expect to be told in the next few days that they have become the first modern force to join that band and be denied a certificate of efficiency. If Geoffrey Dear, the inspector for the Midlands forces, fails to recommend the certificate as they predict, the force would stand to lose Home Office grants of over £30 million a year equal to 51 per cent of its budget and pitch Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, into an unprecedented dispute.

In his 1990 report, Mr Dear said that the force did not meet standards of efficiency and said that police authority controls on expenditure restricted flexibility. There was no building plan despite the poor state of property and the force was

on the brink of losing its certificate. His interim report last September warned of underfunding and continued bureaucratic delays by the police authority, disintegrating morale and poor police statistics.

If the force loses its certificate, the home secretary has three choices. He could leave the already hard-pressed county to find the cash itself for 1993-4. He could amalgamate the force with one of its neighbours — expensive, because officers would have to be made redundant and spare premises sold.

Or he could set up a detailed enquiry into the way Derbyshire police are run, possibly linked to government plans to review the future of Derbyshire as a county. There are also Home Office suggestions that Mr Clarke will want to help rather than penalise the force. He may set a three or five-year plan for the force highlighting new efficiency targets and ask the inspectorate to continue close monitoring.

But what is efficiency and can the inspectorate measure it accurately? What real controls can the Home Office have over an errant force? Mr Dear's report spotlights not only Derbyshire but the inspectorate and its methods.

The inspectorate is made up of former chief constables led by Sir John Woodcock. It assesses whether a force is efficient using "professional judgment", and analysis that measures each force against other forces of comparable size, according to population, crime rate, budgets and manpower.

The force and the county claim that the 1,820-officer Derbyshire force has improved, but the police expect that the way the Labour-controlled police authority has allegedly restricted the force's growth has damaged its efficiency.



Dear: criticised the force in two reports

Ousted Muslims pray for judgment

BY DAVID YOUNG

TORRENTIAL rain yesterday failed to damp the ardour of the two factions that are arguing over control of the mosque built for the 15,000-strong Muslim community in Luton, Bedfordshire.

The High Court is to sit in three weeks to hear the arguments that have split the community and led to one group praying in the mosque while the other lays prayer mats in the car park — weather permitting — under the eyes of the police.

The group led by the trustees, which has run the mosque since raising £800,000 to build it in 1986 has been ousted by rebels seeking a system of elections every two years.

The mosque has been under police surveillance for the past three weeks. It stands in Westbourne Road in the

heart of the Muslim community — soon likely to be renamed Kashmir Road after a petition to the council.

Quazi Abdul Aziz Chishti, the original imam who yesterday led prayers in an Islamic community centre near by, said that his group was still confident that it would win back control of the mosque. "We will continue to pray in the car park five times a day, unless the rain is too heavy, and we'll pray that the High Court will rule in our favour," he said.

A spokesman for the committee that has taken over the mosque said: "According to our constitution of 1982, all the management committee should be elected every two years but there have been no elections for ten years. We have occupied the mosque to protect it and ensure respect."

Thatcher a
chancellor
of 21 new

oters leave G
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Thatcher and former chancellors head list of 21 new life peers

JOHN Major embarked on his honours spree yesterday with the creation of 21 new life peers, four knights, two privy counsellors and one dame. Next week he will follow this with the announcement of at least a further ten life peerages and the Queen's birthday honours list.

If they turn up regularly, the new recruits should inject extra vigour into the upper House, not least in debates on closer European unity.

At the top of Mr Major's dissolution honours list yesterday were life peerages for Margaret Thatcher and three former chancellors of the exchequer from both main parties, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Denis Healey.

The prime minister showed himself to be a traditionalist by following the convention of offering life peerages to all the former cabinet ministers who left the Commons at the general election. Although Mrs Thatcher rejected a hereditary title, Downing Street indicated that Mr Major did not object to hereditary titles and would not rule out the possibility of another title for the former prime minister in the future. She had been informed that she was entitled to the female equivalent of a hereditary earldom.

Surprise names on the dissolution honours list were Harry Ewing, the veteran Scottish MP who had never held a post higher than junior minister at the Scottish Office in the last Labour government, and Julian Amery, the chubbable former Tory MP for Brighton Pavilion. Mr

New recruits are expected to inject fresh vigour into the Lords, particularly during EC debates — provided they bother to turn up regularly, Sheila Gunn writes

Ewing is understood to have given a commitment to Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, to be a regular attender.

The other former Conservative cabinet ministers going to the Lords are Nicholas Ridley, Cecil Parkinson, Norman Tebbit, John Moore, Sir Ian Gilmour, George Younger and Peter Walker. The new Tory intake is split fairly evenly into camps for and against the European Community and into "them and us" categories in their relationship with Mrs Thatcher.

The inclusion of Mr Younger, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland and a former Thatcher confidant, caused some surprise as he will, in any case, inherit a viscountcy on the death of his



Dafydd Elis Thomas: Plaid Cymru's first peer

elderly father, Bernard Weatherill, the retired Commons speaker, is made a life peer but is expected to sit on the independent benches.

Apart from Mr Healey and Mr Ewing, Labour's benches in the Lords will gain the former home secretary Merlyn Rees, the former sports and "weather" minister Denis Howell, the former solicitor general Peter Archer and the veteran campaigner for the disabled, Jack Ashley, who is himself deaf.

As disclosed in *The Times*, David Owen, the former Labour foreign secretary and a founder of the SDP, was nominated personally for a peerage by Mr Major, the man he supported in the closing days of the last election. Once in the Lords, Dr Owen will have to choose whether to sit with the independent peers or the small SDP rump.

Dafydd Elis Thomas becomes Plaid Cymru's first peer in spite of the party's commitment to abolition of the Lords. A government source said Mr Major had offered the Welsh nationalist party a peerage, and it was taken up. Mr Thomas was the party's president from 1984 until last year.

The Liberal Democrats gain one peer, Geraint Howells, who lost his seat to Plaid Cymru in the election.

In addition, there are knightships as consolation prizes for three Tory MPs who lost their seats at the last election and are not expected to return: David Trippier, the former environment minister and deputy chairman of the Tory party; Anthony Beaumont-Dark, renowned throughout the media for his readiness to express an instant opinion on almost anything; and Neil Thorne, Harold Walker, a Labour MP and a deputy speaker in the last Parliament, also becomes a knight.

Francis Maude, the former financial secretary to the Treasury who hopes to return to the Commons, and the former whip Robert Boscawen, are both made privy counsellors.

The former Labour health minister and deputy speaker in the Lords, Lady Serota, becomes a DBE. She has been influential in building up the impressive committee system in the upper House for scrutinising EC directives.

Most, if not all, of the new peers are expected to go through the ten minute introduction ceremony to take their seats before the summer recess. Once in, some of them with new careers outside Parliament may prove to be rare attenders.

With a growing imbalance between the Conservative and Labour benches during the Thatcher administrations, Lord Cledwyn was relieved to gain six new peers. "Their great experience will be valued in all parts of this House," he said.

Diary, page 14



Denis Healey: the former chancellor will join Tory counterparts in the Lords

Arrivals hope to star with Garter

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER Margaret Thatcher is styled Baroness Thatcher of Finchley, Grant-ham, Bruges or the Falklands is a matter she must sort out with Sir Colin Cole, Garter King of Arms, at the College of Arms, in Blackfriars. Agreeing a title does not always run smoothly.

Technically, Garter and the Lord Lyon, his Scottish equivalent, can canvass the views of the local burghers before approving use of a place name, delaying entry to the Lords.

Mrs Thatcher's predecessor, James Callaghan, a former Cardiff MP, had trouble persuading Garter that he should take the title Lord Callaghan of Cardiff. To give a peer the handle of a capital city is seen as a rare honour. Although some new peers admit to feeling intimidated in Garter's presence, the former Labour prime minister apparently made clear that he would consider no other city.

Citizens of the chosen place can object. Len Murray had a spot of bother in becoming "Murray of Epping Forest". Choosing an uninhabited island or a tiny village speeds entry to the Lords, as in the case of the Scottish law lord, Lord Morton of Shuna, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. The Tory whip Baroness Trumpington ruffled a few feathers in a Cambridge suburb when, as Jean Barker, former mayor of Cambridge, she took its name as her title.

Some new peers confuse former Commons colleagues by abandoning well-known surnames, such as Sir Hum-

phrey Atkins, now Lord Colnbrook, and Nicholas Edwards (Lord Crickhowell).

The tactic of the former Labour minister Cledwyn Hughes of adopting his Christian name to become Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos has enhanced his status as doyen of the Lords. Garter is unlikely to agree to a Lord Cecil (Parkinson) or a Lord Jack (Ashley), but those who might consider taking Lord Cledwyn's course are three new Welsh peers with fairly common surnames, Merlyn Rees, Geraint Howells and Dafydd Elis Thomas.

One option for Mrs Thatcher is to take Lord George-Brown's example and opt for Lady Margaret-Thatcher. However, a Lords source predicted "trouble getting it past Garter". The favourite for the former prime minister's title remains Baroness Thatcher of Finchley.



Parkinson: off to the College of Arms

Voters leave Grist on the outside

By TIM JONES

WHILE some portly men and women of a certain age will today be checking their measurements to ensure that the emine fits, it is not a question that will concern Ian Grist.

Instead, the man who was for 18 years a Conservative MP in Cardiff will be metaphorically tramping the city streets in search of a job. Last week, Mr Grist, who as a junior minister in the Welsh Office had a whiff of high office, registered as unemployed and signed up at the local employment office.

His world of committees, lobby bells, surgeries and high level talks fell apart on April 9 when he lost his seat to a Labour opponent. He said yesterday: "It was never a very safe seat. It was more of a trembling branch and eventually the leaf fell off."

Mr Grist, 53, who has just returned from a holiday in California with his wife, the full time party agent in his former constituency, says he is not embittered by his changed circumstances. "What is there to be bitter about. I always knew I could lose my seat virtually overnight."

His star began to wane

when in December 1990 he was dropped as a Welsh Office minister. "I backed Heseltine for the leadership contest because I thought Mrs Thatcher, whom I admire, had passed her sell-by date. I was miffed when it happened," he said.

"I signed on the dole to make sure my stamps get stamped and in the hope that I may be offered a job."

Mr Grist hopes that the contacts he has made over the years will lead to a job offer where his considerable expertise will be valued. Yesterday, he was hoping an afternoon meeting would offer an interview.

"I do know a great deal about public affairs. I know a great many people involved in Parliament and much about the institutions of government. Perhaps something in public relations might suit me."

In the meantime, the resettlement allowance he received will save him from immediate financial embarrassment. Between job interviews, he plans to start reading a history of the Hundred Years War. For him, one day in politics, April 9, was much longer than that.

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converter.) The driving force behind this particular piece of history is a 2.0i 24 valve V6 engine allied to computer designed suspension. Take her for a drive and yet more rules fall by the wayside. One moment you're gliding effortlessly across the miles in stately comfort. The next you throw her into a bend and suddenly you have the rock steady poise of a true sports car.

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Storm clouds gather over plan to annex Brontë heritage

LIFE for the Brontë Society today is as dark and strife-torn as anything the literary sisters might have written 150 years ago. Members gather this afternoon to elect eight new members of their ruling council in a ballot that is the culmination of an acrimonious two-year power struggle.

The society is divided over plans to build a new office block and visitor centre to cope with the 200,000 who annually pass through Haworth Parsonage near Keighley in West Yorkshire, where Charlotte, Emily and Anne once lived.

Rebels who opposed the council's original plans, accusing it of failing to consult the membership, hope to seize power. They won a two-thirds majority at today's annual meeting which would mean overall control. The old guard fears that a mass exodus will take place if the rebels win. Around 300 members are expected at the meeting at Haworth Methodist Sunday school where the three sisters once taught.

On top of all this has come the news that a ruined farmhouse high on the moors above the parsonage and believed by many to be the model for Wuthering Heights is in danger of collapse. Top Withens was abandoned in the 1920s and

Heathcliff would have felt quite at home in today's Brontë Society, Paul Wilkinson reports

became derelict long before it found a new role as part of the Brontë heritage trail, but Yorkshire Water, its owner, now says its walls are crumbling and could fall in a high wind.

The dispute has reached such acrimonious proportions that the rebels often communicate with the society through lawyers while the old guard suspects them of feminist, anti-male, motives. Seven of their eight candidates are women. Their leader is Chris Sumner, who resigned her post as vice-chairman over the council's plans.

The irony is that the £750,000 extension, first mooted in 1990, is unlikely to be built. The anonymous donor withdrew when the dispute became heated. The size of the extension to the grade I listed building upset members who feared the parsonage would appear a mere annex.

They countered with a proposal for an underground development, but outraged the council by obtaining

planning permission without consultation. The dispute boiled over last year when the annual report was rejected amid heated exchanges and the chairman's resignation.

Arthur Pollard was elected on a peace-making ticket and introduced several reforms, but resigned in March when they failed to gain enough support. He has since been persuaded to stay on, but is regarded by the rebels as a supporter of the old guard and his seat will be contested today.

In a letter to 3,400 members worldwide, he said he was saddened by the division that persisted despite his efforts at reconciliation. "The future of the society is at stake and you, the members, must decide," he told them.

Meanwhile, the impending fate of Top Withens is a pressing priority for the society. The ruined farmhouse has had its grade II listed status removed and is in danger of crumbling away.

The ruins, about two miles from the Brontë family home, lie on the Brontë heritage trail and are visited by tourists from all over the world, despite the fact that there is little hard evidence to connect the building to Wuthering Heights.

Now its owner, Yorkshire



Open to question: Top Withens, the farmhouse linked to Wuthering Heights

Water, has been told the stonework is dangerous. One wall is moving so much on its foundations that it could be blown over by a high wind. The environment department removed its listing last November because of its tenuous connection with the Brontë saga. That decision has distressed the Brontë Society, mainly because it was not consulted.

"It is very sad that some civil servant did not think to ask our opinion," Mr Pollard said. "We only found

out about it afterwards. I know we have no legal rights, but we are certainly a very interested party. We are very keen to ensure that anything with connections to the Brontës is preserved."

He is awaiting approaches from Yorkshire Water on its proposals for preserving Top Withens. The company admitted yesterday that at one point total demolition had been considered, but that option had been rejected. The possibilities of partial demolition and rebuild-

ing or the injection of strengthening material are now being assessed. One estimate put the cost of repairs at more than £30,000. A spokesman for the company said: "Our main concern is for the safety of the public who visit the site in their hundreds each year."

The society put up a plaque 30 years ago pointing out the lack of evidence, but hundreds of the 200,000 visitors the museum receives annually make the pilgrim-



Society favourite: Emily, painted by her brother, Patrick Branwell Brontë, in the 1830s

Cash shortfall hits clergy stipends

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SOME Church of England dioceses could run out of money in the next few years and be unable to pay clergy stipends, according to a report published yesterday.

Its author, the Rev Robert van de Weyer, chairman of Cambridge Historic Churches Trust, calls for a return to local people being directly responsible for stipends as well as for buildings.

Writing in the summer edition of the *Historic Churches Review*, he predicts a "spiral of defaulting" on parish quotas, the sum levied on parishes to go towards stipends. Already many small parishes with large buildings to maintain are delaying indefinitely vital repairs so as to meet their quotas, he says. "It is not entirely fanciful to anticipate some dioceses going bust over the next few years, unable to pay clergy stipends," he says.



Sykes: seeking ways to meet church costs

Earlier this week, Norwich diocese gave warning of a cash shortage because of some parishes' failure to pay their share, and a reduction in contributions to the diocesan budget from the Church Commissioners. The diocese said that it might face a deficit of £400,000 over two years. Other dioceses, such as Lincoln, have reduced clergy.

The annual report of the Church Commissioners, to be published soon, is expected to warn of further reductions in the money that can be used to pay clergy stipends from the church's historic resources. This will increase further the burden on parishes. The shortfall has been caused by the recession and the continuing increase in retired clergy, whose pensions are paid entirely by the commissioners.

Mr van de Weyer has been working with the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Rev Stephen Sykes, to find a way to finance church repairs and clergy stipends. In the *Review*, published by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, Mr van de Weyer says that the good repair of most churches is "one of the triumphs of our national culture".

The trust, a charity founded to help to finance church repairs and whose chairman is the Duke of Grafton, received a record number of applications last year. It was able to help 389 of the 926 churches that requested aid.

Visitors to sue over jail search

Two people who were strip-searched on a prison visit can sue the home secretary, a judge ruled at Liverpool County Court. Judge Marshall Evans, QC, said that searching visitors was unlawful "if the prison officers acted irrationally".

Natalie Bayliss, 22, and Brian Barton, 21, of Stockbridge village, Merseyside, are claiming damages for false imprisonment and assault while visiting an inmate of Frankland Prison, Durham, in 1988. The case will be heard in November.

Whitty bailed

Larry Whitty, Labour party general secretary, was remanded on unconditional bail until July 8 by Bow Street magistrates after he denied assaulting a policeman and driving through a red light in London on the night of the general election.

Crash award

A boy brain-damaged in a crash when he was eight was awarded £715,000 agreed damages in a structured settlement at the High Court. Michael McCarthy, 16, of Hodnet, Shropshire, was in a car that collided with a lorry.

Barged out

Boats were banned from the Caen Hill flight of locks in Devizes, Wiltshire, until water levels rise on the 87-mile Kennet and Avon Canal.

Sculpture unites 50 nations

By PAUL WILKINSON

STONE from a Pennine beauty spot is to form the British element of a sculpture made of material from 50 countries that have links with Switzerland.

The rock, from Hardcastle Crags, near Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire, will be handed over today by the National Trust. The area, with its steep valley and rocky outcrops, is known locally as Little Switzerland. The stone will be accepted by Eduard Jaun, the Swiss consul.

The sculpture was conceived by the Swiss tourist board to emphasise the country's links with many places around the world. It identified about 160 locations that have Switzerland in their names, usually because of their similarity to Alpine scenery.

The sculpture, *The Balance of Things*, by George Steinmann, will be erected in September near the Bern houses of parliament. It consists of five groups of rock, each representing a continent, on a bed of gravel.

Hardcastle Crags' connection with Switzerland was emphasised in 1948 when a Swiss professor working in Leeds was struck by the area's similarity to Reutli, where the Swiss confederation was founded in 1291. As president of the Yorkshire Swiss Society he organised an annual picnic.

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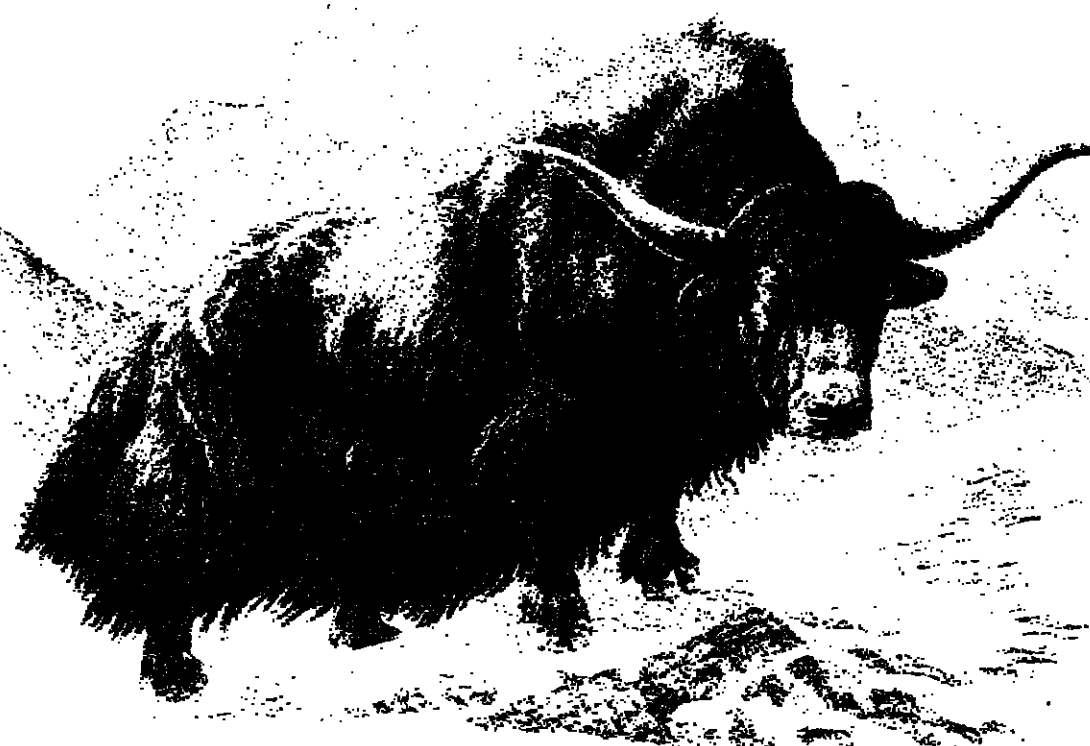
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Economic ills beset Khomeini's heirs

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

THE eastern city of Mashhad, under tight security after several days of rioting and destruction, symbolises the worst economic and social difficulties the Iranian regime has faced since the death of Ayatollah Khomeini three years ago.

Ayatollah Yazdi, the regime's chief judge, has been dispatched to mete out justice. At least 300 people have been arrested, numerous government buildings are damaged, and the city is under the control of the army's 5th Nasr Division, moved in from the Afghan border.

Ominously, those involved in the sixth of a series of anti-government protests across the country have been branded the "corrupt of the Earth", a particularly heinous crime under the Islamic regime that in the past would have led to almost certain execution. But things are not quite that simple any longer for President Rafsanjani, Khomeini's successor, who is struggling against growing accusations that 13 years of the Islamic revolution have left people worse off.

The wave of executions of young people after Khomeini took power has not been forgotten, and the regime must offer more than piety and punishment to its rapidly expanding population. Besides, the protests in Mashhad and the industrial city of Arak are rooted in real economic hardship which has precious little to do with piety or the lack of it.

According to one estimate, Iran's standard of living is now 50 per cent lower in real terms than when Khomeini came to power. The population is increasing at the rate of 1.8 million a year. The city of Mashhad itself has swollen from 800,000 ten years ago to 2.5 million today, boosted by the large influx of refugees from Afghanistan.



Up to 15 million are unemployed, while 75 per cent of people under the age of 25 are under-employed. Seventy-five per cent of the population lives in absolute poverty, says *The Wall Street Journal*, earning about \$1 (50p) a day. Inflation is running at about 40 per cent.

Politically, however, President Rafsanjani has made some progress. The president has brought Ayatollah Khomeini, his principal rival and the formal spiritual and temporal leader of the republic, under control and tamed the Majlis (parliament) by barring most of the former radical deputies from standing in last April's elections. He has also ended Iran's participation in hostage-taking in Lebanon, making it possible, for example, for the European Community to sign an economic co-operation agreement with his government.

However, the president seems to lack the political will to implement the economic reforms recommended by the International Monetary Fund. In his last budget he increased subsidies for staple foods and services to £9 billion and his attempts to reduce the 20-fold discrepancy between the official and free-market values of Iran's currency have not been decisive. A fall in oil revenues last year has pushed the foreign debt to about \$17 billion.

Nor has there been an appreciable liberalisation of Iranian society. Secret execu-

tions of political dissidents continue, particularly in the western Kurdish region, and press and broadcasting are heavily censored. Iran also remains implicated in international terrorism. Swiss diplomats in Tehran have in recent weeks been harassed by the security forces in order to prevent the extradition to France of an Iranian wanted for the murder in Paris of Shahpour Bakhtiar, the former prime minister.

To compound his economic woes, President Rafsanjani has also embarked on a colossal programme of weapons purchases to make Iran a regional superpower once more. These are estimated to include 2,500 tanks, nearly 600 combat aircraft, 2,000 missiles and a number of submarines.

The programme is clearly aimed at intimidating the Gulf states into setting oil price and production levels to suit Iran. However, it is more likely to drive the shahdoms further under America's military wing.



Hear, hear: Shinichiro Shimojo, left, chairman of the Tokyo committee considering the bill to allow troops to serve abroad, being shouted at by an opposition MP

Tokyo presses on with troops bill

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Japan yesterday came one step closer to forcing through parliament a controversial bill designed to allow Japanese troops to be sent overseas for the first time since the second world war as part of UN-led peacekeeping forces.

After almost 18 months of deliberations between the LDP and the socialist and communist parties, which oppose the bill on the ground that it violates Japan's pacifist postwar constitution, a parliamentary peacekeeping operations committee voted yesterday to send the legislation to a vote in the upper house, the penultimate step to making it law.

The legislation was conceived at the height of the Gulf conflict by a government stung by foreign criticism that its response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was belated and insufficient. The bill has since made such tortuous progress and been so frequently diluted, that it has come to symbolise the question of just how far Japan is willing

to go to honour pledges to play a role in international affairs commensurate with its economic might.

A vote in the opposition-controlled upper house, which had been due yesterday, was likely to be postponed until next week. Having secured the support of two minority opposition parties, the Komei party and the Democratic Socialist party, the LDP is expected to prevail but not before eruptions of rowdy behaviour from socialist MPs, who have threatened to use physical force as a last resort to block passage of the bill.

The LDP has paid dearly to boost its numerical strength in the upper house. Compromises over the content of the bill have caused a retreat from the original proposals and the final draft offers a sharply circumscribed role for Japan's self-defence forces overseas. Parliament will have the right of veto over each proposed mission, including planned Japanese participation in the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cambodia.

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Lebanese await next raid

Villagers fear that Israel will invade, writes Richard Beeston from Qallawiyah

SHAIKH Ali al-Amin listened intently to the growing chatter of helicopter rotor blades approaching his hilltop village before his face relaxed into a confident smile. "No! Cobra," he said, shaking his turbaned head and reassuring his guests that they were not about to be caught up in Israel's latest air attack in southern Lebanon.

Like other villagers, living within sight and artillery range of the Israeli border security zone, recognising the difference between a United Nations troop transporter and an Israeli Cobra helicopter gunship has become second nature to the Shia Muslim cleric over the past two weeks as Israeli aircraft have gone into action 11 times against suspected guerrilla targets.

"It is just as it was ten years ago before the Israelis invaded Lebanon, only last time they were fighting the Palestinians and this time it is Hezbollah," said Shaikh al-Amin, who, like many, fears this escalation could be the prelude to another incursion.

"We are living in a big prison," said Kamel Jaffar, the mukhtar (village elder) of Frum, a hamlet located less than a mile from the security zone. "When Hezbollah launch an operation against the Israelis, they do not retaliate against the guerrillas, who have already disappeared, but against us."

To control the situation, America and Arab countries this week intervened to end the sit-for-tat raids. However, none of the combatants has shown any signs of losing interest.

Nevertheless, it is still possible that the two sides can be brought back from an all-out confrontation, particularly if further diplomatic pressure is brought to bear on Syria to limit Hezbollah's activities, and if Israel's right-wing government reflects on the implications of a military enterprise before the elections later this month.

Saturday Review, page 12

UN doubts Iraq arms report

Cairo: Iraq has submitted to United Nations inspectors what it said was a "full, final and comprehensive" report on its programme to develop weapons of mass destruction, including a nuclear bomb (Christopher Waller writes).

Dimitri Pericos, the leader of a team of UN experts which left Baghdad with the documents yesterday, said he was sceptical about the disclosures because it was impossible to know whether they were really complete until they had been analysed. The report was required by the UN Security Council under a provision of the ceasefire resolutions ending the Gulf war.

Afghans clash

Kabul: Fighting between Sunni and Shia Muslim guerrillas spread to central Kabul, claiming a dozen lives. The death toll in four days of fighting was more than 100. But hundreds of hostages taken by the rival groups have been freed. (Reuters)

Peking relents

Peking: China lifted a reporting ban imposed on James Miles, a BBC correspondent, and returned his press pass confiscated a month ago. He was detained briefly on April 30 after covering a protest in Tiananmen Square by seven European MPs. (Reuters)

Rebels accused

Phnom Penh: The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia condemned the Khmer Rouge for obstructing the peace accord by refusing to disarm its guerrillas. The Khmer Rouge had launched attacks this week, it said. (AP)

Captives freed

Rangoon: Burma's military junta, which began releasing political prisoners in April, has released 14 more, including two members of the opposition National League for Democracy. Working People's Daily, the official newspaper, said. (Reuters)

Cures claimed

Jerusalem: A statuette of the Virgin Mary is attracting thousands of Christians to Nazareth because of the alleged healing powers of the oil it exudes. The wax figure belongs to a young Arab Christian who works in a plastics factory. (AFP)

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Baby boom is countdown to genocide, says Cousteau

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor, and Our Foreign Staff

JACQUES Cousteau, the explorer, last night urged world leaders to take drastic action to stop the "genocide" of uncontrolled population growth. In a speech at the Earth summit, Commander Cousteau said that only spending of "utopian" proportions could tackle what he identified as the root causes of the population explosion — the second-class status of women and the financial insecurity of old people.

Addressing an invited audience that included President Collor de Mello of Brazil and the King and Queen of Sweden, Commander Cousteau, 82, issued a warning that misunderstanding between rich and poor countries over the causes of environmental destruction was becoming bitter and could lead to conflict. "The fuse connected to a demographic explosion is already burning. We have less than ten years to put it out," the French oceanographer and ecologist said.

"Let us stop this delayed-action genocide. Let us cease thinking only of ourselves and reasoning only in the short



term. Let us assure for the children to come the same rights that have been declared for their parents." Commander Cousteau said the world's population had more than tripled to 5.4 billion in his lifetime and would triple again to 16 billion over the next 80 years if nothing were done.

Even if it stabilised at 12 billion, it would be impossible to provide decent living conditions for so many people.

"Surviving like rats is not what we should bequeath to our children and grandchildren." Railing against what he called "the new dictatorship of materialism", man-made changes in world climate, and the destruction of thousands of species, Commander Cousteau said the world was living through "an interminable succession of absurdities imposed by the myopic logic of short-term thinking."

"All these evils must be cured urgently, and the only medicine is a recourse to Utopia," he said. Commander Cousteau said low birth rates in Catholic Italy — "the closest land to the Vatican" — and Muslim Indonesia disproved the conventional wisdom that culture and religion posed the greatest obstacles to family planning.

He called on the more than one hundred heads of state and the thousands of delegates attending the UN Conference on Environment and Development to take drastic and unconventional measures. Last night, America's hard-

line pro-jobs stance at the summit was dimming the prospects for the forthcoming discussions between John Major and President Bush on environmental topics. Mr Major flies to Washington today. The British prime minister, the first G7 leader to agree to attend the summit, has consistently boosted its importance. Although he is sympathetic to Mr Bush's election needs, he is anxious not to have Britain condemned along with its traditional ally as a "Mr Dirty" at Rio de Janeiro.

Downing Street is still hopeful that Britain will be able to sign the biodiversity treaty on the protection of plant and animal species which America is most unlikely to endorse.

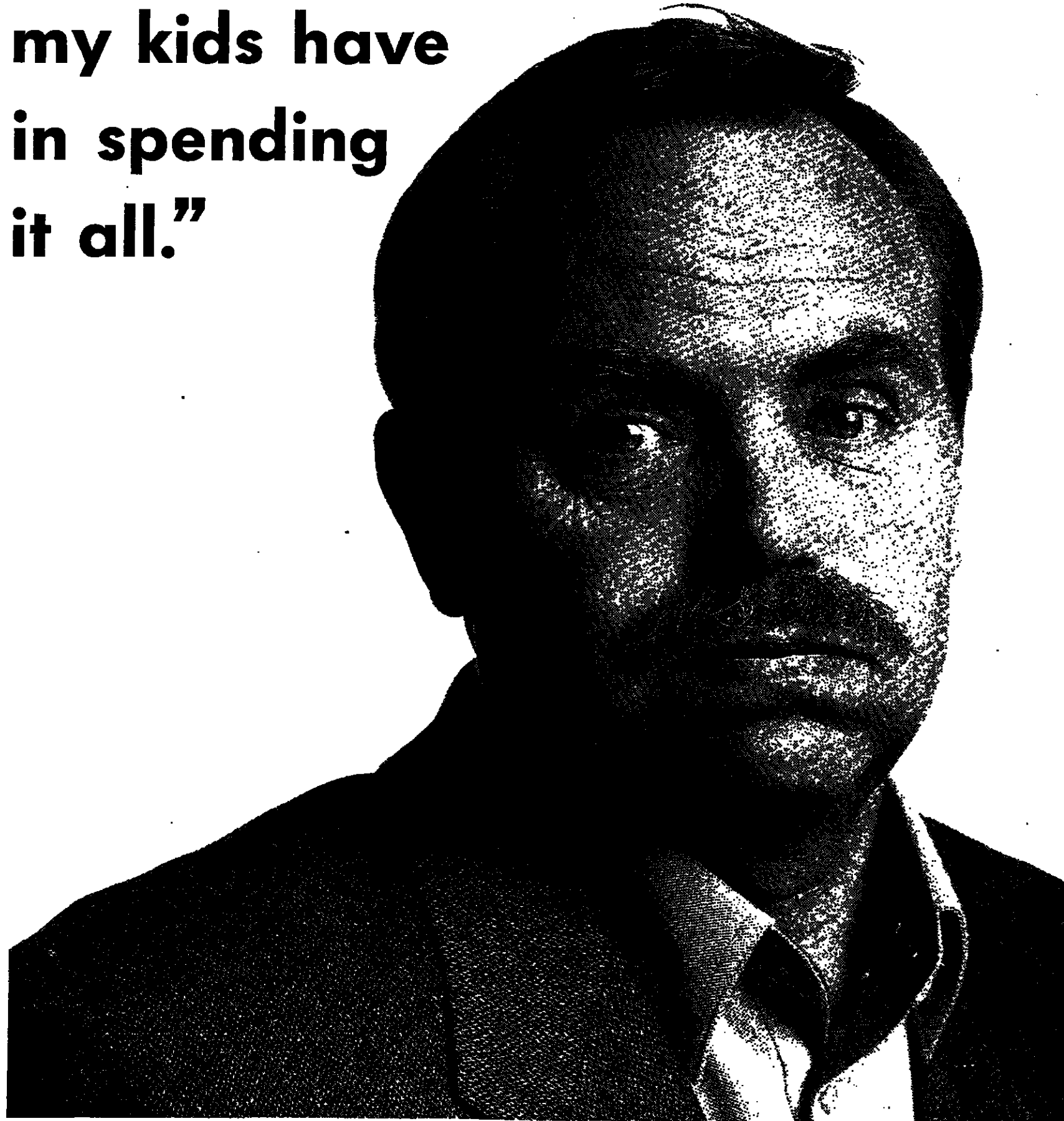
In Rio de Janeiro, where Mr Major is to make a point of visiting a children's refuge, he will have a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders, including Li Peng, the Chinese premier.

Bush rebuff, page 1
Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15



Pressing for a sea change: Jacques Cousteau, who rallied against "the new dictatorship of materialism"

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RIO NOTEBOOK

Tibetan leader urges a new start

Wearing his traditional burgundy robe and clutching a string of beads, the tearful, earnest figure of the Dalai Lama sat among Roman Catholic nuns and Islamic mullahs holding an all-night vigil to highlight the plight of the Tibetan people, in a palm tree-filled park of Rio de Janeiro.

As Hindu chants echoed across the park where the alternative environment conference is being held, the Dalai Lama — the Buddhist leader of Tibet — joined hundreds of devotees to urge world leaders at the Earth summit not to forget the six million Tibetans under Chinese occupation.

The Dalai Lama has lived in exile in northern India since the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1950. For years he has tried to attract attention to the plight of his people and has won a Nobel Peace prize.

"Whether Islamic, Hindu, Christian or Buddhist, religion should not matter. We need a little more compassion and if we cannot have it then no politician or even a magician can save the planet," he said.

Bowing his shaven head to recite a Tibetan prayer, he added: "I cannot translate this prayer. It is a secret, but it will be good for all of you. It's not just the Tibetan people who have suffered from the occupation but also our eco-system," the Dalai Lama said. "Tibet is an environmentally sensitive area, at a very high altitude with little rain where it takes decades to rebuild forests."

A non-governmental organisation, Eco-Tibet, which is taking part in the alternative conference, has released a report claiming widespread environmental damage in Tibet, caused by Chinese wood companies which it says are indiscriminately felling forest areas. The report says 2,000 square metres of forest is being pulled down every year. In the past 50 years the area of forest has been reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent.

"When trees get cut in the highlands of Tibet it affects the monsoon of Bangladesh and India. Floods occur and people die," Sanjeev Prakash of Eco-Tibet said. "It's very difficult to monitor because there is no access to Tibet and the region is isolated. There has never been any international pressure to speak of against the Chinese about this."

Human rights organisations claim that more than a million Tibetans have died at the hands of Chinese security forces since 1950.

The Dalai Lama said world leaders "should not be so hesitant to take decisions and should not be led by political priorities — compassion should be a greater priority at the conference." To the conflict of interests between the richer and poorer nations over resources he said: "The South should do more to help themselves. The North has to see less in material ways."

GABRIELLA GAMINTI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chernobyl plant may be rebuilt

Vladimir Lukin, the Ukrainian government has begun negotiations with Russian companies on the reconstruction of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the scene of the world's worst nuclear accident.

However, Vitold Fokin, Ukraine's prime minister, said in Vienna yesterday that "no final decision on the future of the nuclear plant has yet been taken". If a decision to rebuild Chernobyl were taken, the work could begin early next year, he said. Ukrainian ministers had earlier decided to close down the plant completely.

The oldest nuclear reactor in the former Soviet Union, built at Krasnoyarsk on the Chernobyl model, is to be closed down on July 1. (AFP)

Aid pledged

Le Bourget: France will reach the United Nations target for aid to the Third World by the year 2000, Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, promised. France would increase development aid from 0.56 per cent of gross domestic product to 0.7 per cent. (Reuters)

Fund accused

Kuala Lumpur: A Malaysian minister claimed that radicals are manipulating the World Wide Fund for Nature into leading a campaign against buying Malaysian tropical hardwood. A WWF spokesman declined to comment. (Reuters)

Oil fear eased

New York: The huge oil spill, some six million to eight million barrels, released into the Gulf by Iraqi troops during their occupation of Kuwait did not damage marine life or the coral reefs as seriously as many scientists feared, UN officials said. (AP)

Animal has TB

Seattle: A New Guinea tree kangaroo named Kara has been found to have tuberculosis. Woodland Park zoo said. The diagnosis may help veterinary surgeons to save the 12-year-old Matschie's tree kangaroo, a species threatened with extinction. (AP)

Visit cancelled

Copenhagen: Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, has cancelled his visit to the Earth summit because of Denmark's refusal to ratify the Maastricht treaty, his office said. Per Stig Møller, environment minister, will lead the delegation. (Reuters)

Space danger

Cape Canaveral: NASA engineers have redesigned shields for the £17 billion space station to protect it from the junk littering space. Twice last year space-shuttle astronauts had to swerve away from large chunks of old Russian rockets. (AP)

Faxes donated

Rio de Janeiro: Representatives of the world's poorest countries are getting one break at the Earth summit here. They are being offered free electronic and facsimile transmissions worldwide, courtesy of Brazilian and American companies. (AFP)

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Walesa finds himself a pliable premier

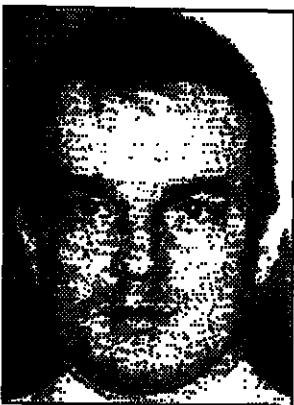
BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

POLAND has edged a little closer to a resolution of its seven-month-old political deadlock with the toppling of the stubbornly independent government of Jan Olszewski, the prime minister.

Last night Waldemar Pawlak, leader of the Polish Peasants Party, was approved by a 261-149 parliamentary margin after his endorsement by President Walesa. In an address to parliament before the vote, Mr Pawlak, 33, pledged to seek broad support for a "balanced" government with a common programme "because today especially we need not declarations, but actions".

He told the deputies that, although he was born in communist times, he wanted "to change that system". Mr Pawlak is the fourth prime minister since the 1989 overthrow of the communists, and the first whose roots are not in the Solidarity movement.

Mr Olszewski's removal has been on the cards for several months. The trigger for the no confidence vote on Thursday night was a government decision to release (al-



Pawlak: actions, not declarations, needed

it in sealed envelopes to party chiefs) the names of politicians connected with the communists' secret police. This so poisoned the atmosphere and panicked MPs that a good majority was found to dump Mr Olszewski.

Since general elections in October returned 29 parties to parliament, Poland has been beset by problems of authority. Mr Olszewski's centre-right government tried to seize back some of its natural governing authority by

challenging the president on a series of defence, foreign and intelligence matters. The president resisted and there was talk of Mr Walesa preparing a benign coup.

In fact, Mr Walesa had simply concluded that Poland could only wriggle out of its difficulties if it were governed by a close partnership of prime minister and president. He has exited from the stalemate by finding a pliable prime minister.

Looking younger than his 33 years, Mr Pawlak is a competent but undistinguished political administrator willing to listen to and implement presidential initiatives. In return, he wants preferential policies for farmers, including cheap credits.

That, and other economic issues, may make it difficult for Mr Pawlak to build a coalition committed to market reform. The president, however, will use his full power to create a solid cabinet. Above all, he has a plan for a network of strong deputy prime ministers.

Leading article, page 15



Singled out: Jan Olszewski sits alone during the Polish parliamentary debate that led to his dismissal as prime minister after seven months' political deadlock

Rhetoric tussles with reality for a nation's soul

The populist Slovak leader will have to find a way to work with his Czech free marketeer opponent after the election, Roger Boyes writes in Bratislava

AS Vladimir Meciar skipped out of his grey Peugeot yesterday, a voice from the crowd shouted "Free Slovakia! Give us independence!" The Slovak politician, frontrunner in the current Czechoslovak elections, flashed a Cheshire cat grin and raised his fist.

That scene outside a Bratislava polling station was followed by another, in the rabbit-hutch housing estate of Petralka on the edge of the Slovak capital. "Look after us, Vladek — keep our jobs!" demanded a clutch of women near a playground. Mr Meciar smiled and, like the Cheshire cat, disappeared.

There is no doubting the support for this bull-necked man who split the original anti-communist coalition to form his own party, the Movement for Democratic Slovakia. He may pick up as much as 40 per cent of the votes after polls close today.

But he will win because of the essential ambiguity of his politics. He wants Slovakia to move more slowly towards the market than the Czech lands; above all, he wants protection for the arms industry and the inefficient rust belt. Yet these factories are only kept alive because of federal subsidies from Prague. If Slovakia breaks away, it will be a small, impoverished country — five million people and an industry largely geared to the crumbling markets of the former Soviet Union. It may be politically independent but it will be economically beholden to neighbouring Austria.

Sooner or later, Mr Meciar is destined to break his election promises. Either he will drop his separatist rhetoric or he will ditch his left-wing economics. The betting is that he will tread more softly on independence. "When will you declare independence?" asked a reporter. "In not later than two months," barked back Mr Meciar, and in so doing ensured a few more uncommitted votes.

His schedule for Slovakia is as follows: a declaration of sovereignty soon after the new Slovak parliament is formed, a new Slovak constitution overriding the federal charter, a referendum on independence, and finally

some form of confederal agreement with the Czechs. This timetable is designed to build up his bargaining power with Prague and whittle away federal authority. One of the first measures of a new Slovak parliament will be to set up a separate currency backed by a separate central bank.

That should infuriate Václav Klaus, the finance minister, who, as head of the conservative Civic Democratic party, is likely to emerge the winner in the Czech lands. Mr Klaus set up the scheme of privatisation by vouchers, which it was hoped would create a constituency for reform, making some eight million Czechs and Slovaks sufficiently committed to bear the pain of shock therapy.

Tubas and trombones play at Mr Klaus's rallies, for he knows that he needs the support of workers to carry off his reforms. If such backing melts away, as it has done in Poland, the reforms (and his party) are doomed. So, despite his collection of silk ties and tailored suits, despite his talk of input-output and cost parameters, he tries to strike a jokey man-of-the-people pose. It looks silly, but that is the penance of democratic politicians, east and west.

Mr Meciar is easier with crowds. "The other day Klaus visited a home and somebody showed him a teaspoon," jokes Mr Meciar at a rally. "What's that?" asks Klaus.

"A frying pan for a family of six," says the housewife.

"Too big!" replies Klaus.

The Slovak crowd likes this jousting with Mr Klaus, a too-smooth man in far-away Prague who wants to order their lives. But Mr Klaus is set to be federal prime minister and Mr Meciar will somehow have to do business with him. They are an odd couple but they have an important thing in common — they were not dissidents in the 1970 and 1980s.

That makes them modern politicians in Central Europe: slightly shifty, ambiguous, yet capable of compromise. Will that be enough to save the state of Czechoslovakia?

Saturday Review, page 4

Moscow leaks put party on the spot

The Russian government is blighting Communist hopes of recovery with details of past sins, Bruce Clark writes

WITH a month to go before Russia's constitutional court delivers its verdict on the legality of the Communist party, a flood of material on the party's past sins — some horrifying, some farcical and some politically red-hot — is being released to the press.

Leaks from the party's archives include fresh details of the staggering cynicism with which Stalin carried out the 1937 purges, ordering the party boss of every region to draw up lists of people to be shot or sent into exile. The daily *Trud* this week published the text of the order to prepare these hit lists, along with a reply from Nikita Khrushchev, then Moscow party boss, saying that 40,000 "criminals" had been identified in the capital.

Other tidbits offered to reporters yesterday by Mikhail Poltoranin, the Russian information minister, included a statement by Lenin which described as a "favourable development" for Bolshevism the terrible famine of 1922 which he was supposed to have tried to alleviate. Among a stream of data about donations to foreign communist movements was the name of John Reed, the American historian of the 1917 revolution, who was given \$1.5 million to foment subversion in his homeland.

But Mr Poltoranin also made some embarrassing disclosures about the more recent past. As recently as 1989, the party's politburo, which was then headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, resolved to ensure that liberal members of the newly elected parliament — led by Andrei Sakharov and Boris Yeltsin — be denied access to the printing press.

The current flood of disclosures will almost certainly influence the climate in which the constitutional court will resume on July 7 its deliberations on whether

the Communist party should be allowed to reconstitute itself. The court convened briefly last month to consider the legality of President Yeltsin's ban on Communist party activities. Lawyers for Mr Yeltsin successfully persuaded the judges to broaden their enquiry and consider whether the party had ever been "constitutional".

Liberal historians are arguing that the whole of the Communist party archives should simply be thrown open to objective scholarship rather than released in carefully calculated doses. Western researchers have complained of being asked for huge sums of money for access to party files. A Canadian reporter said at yesterday's meeting with Mr Poltoranin that he had been presented with a bill for \$12,000 (£6,600) after one enquiry.

One of the party personalities who stands to lose most from the revelations is Mr Gorbachev, currently engaged in an unseemly public bickering with President Yeltsin.

One of the "levers" that Mr Yeltsin is widely assumed to hold over his predecessor is detailed knowledge both of the former Soviet president's record as party chief and of his behaviour during the August coup. However, apart from Mr Gorbachev, there are other more obscure politicians who may be affected by the disclosures.

Mr Poltoranin yesterday read out a letter received in 1968 from an ungrateful African revolutionary, who was unemployed by his payout from Moscow of \$5,000. "Many thanks for your help ... In order to continue the struggle, we would be most grateful if you could transfer us another \$100,000 in the shortest possible time."



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THE SUNDAY TIMES
THIS SUNDAY

Major hopes to allay doubts over Europe

ums pact signed by states

Happiness is

Major hopes to allay US doubts over Europe

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR will fly into Washington this afternoon ready to assure a nervous American administration that Europe is not coming apart at the seams.

British officials recognise that Mr Major will have to counter American bewilderment over the European Community's response to the Danish rejection of Maastricht and the strictures of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, over European policy on the Yugoslav war.

Fresh from his talks in Bonn yesterday with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, Mr Major will brief President Bush on Community affairs, his recent trip to Central Europe and his plans for the British presidency of the EC beginning on July 1. The two men are to spend most of

the weekend at Camp David. Their talks will also look ahead to the agenda for the summit of the Group of Seven most industrialised nations in Munich in July. Herr Kohl told Mr Major that he was anxious to achieve agreement in the negotiations on world trade before the opening of the July summit.

The talks between Mr Major and Mr Bush are expected to focus on European defence and security. There is unease both in Washington and London about the Franco-German plan for a joint 35,000 strong "Eurocorps" which the two men believe could undermine Nato and duplicate its role.

Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, have refrained from protesting publicly over what is a fait accompli. But British reservations have already been expressed to the Germans, and Mr Major is believed to have given a warning again yesterday that the Eurocorps plan could hasten withdrawal of American troops from Europe. The real suspicions in London and Washington are over the French aims for the new corps. Mr Hurd will insist in further talks, as the Americans are doing, that Nato retains first call on any of the forces involved. Britain and America hope to see the new force submerged in the strengthening of the Western European Union.

Arms pact signed by 29 states

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN OSLO

TWO years after East and West agreed to a comprehensive arms control treaty, 29 states yesterday signed a new version in the hope of finally achieving the weapons cuts.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty was agreed between Nato and the Warsaw Pact just before the disintegration of the communist alliance and the Soviet Union made implementation impossible. Under pressure from Nato to maintain the momentum towards deep cuts in numbers of tanks, planes and artillery, seven of the Commonwealth of Independent States agreed in Tashkent last month to an allocation of Soviet weapons. Nato leaders said yesterday that they hoped that the treaty would be ratified before a European security summit scheduled for July. "This is one of the most important cornerstones of a future European security architecture," said Manfred Wörner, Nato's secretary-general.

But in a sign of the new realities, the foreign minister of Belorussia said yesterday that his parliament might not ratify the treaty. Pyotr Kravchenko said there was domestic opposition to weakening the country's defences. A political row broke out in Finland over the government's acceptance of an invitation to observe a meeting between Nato, East European and commonwealth governments in the North Atlantic Co-operation Council. This was enough for President Koivisto to criticise the government for taking this step without consulting Scandinavian neutrals.

● Bonn: The withdrawal of the former Soviet army from east Germany is going faster than planned, despite the break-up of the Soviet Union, according to Major General Hartmut Foertsch, chief German liaison officer (Ian Murray writes).

He said in Berlin yesterday there were now just 200,000 soldiers and about 145,000 dependants, about half the number at the time of unification.

Besieged troops leave Sarajevo

FROM BILL FROST IN ZVORNIK AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

HEAVY guns on the hills above Sarajevo fell silent yesterday as warring Serbs and Muslims observed a brief truce to allow safe passage to 300 members of the Yugoslav national army trapped in their barracks since the bloody siege of the city began.

Shelling was halted at noon, and soon afterwards a convoy of buses left the Marshal Tito base under United Nations escort. The Muslim defenders of the city, who had agreed to the evacuation last week, were instructed by their commanders to hold fire until federal army forces had left Sarajevo en route for a Serb-held town to the south.

The Yugoslav forces, trapped in the barracks by constant shelling from fellow Serbs on the hills above, left behind their own heavy artillery and multiple-rocket launchers. According to some reports, shelling resumed as soon as the convoy left.

On the road northeast of Sarajevo at Olovo, a middle-aged man sat sobbing by his car. Two solemn toddlers stood watching him. Colic Nenad slipped through the Serb lines with his wife and children a day earlier and "borrowed" a car once clear of the city. Now the petrol tank had run dry and the family was marooned.

"We have come from hell. My mother, my father and my brothers are dead. The house was hit while I took the children to the doctor; they are sick from hunger," he said.

Mr Nenad shook his fist at the hills. "Listen, the guns have started again. I am Serb, they are Serbs. Once we lived peacefully with the Muslims. Now the streets run with blood," he said as his children instinctively took cover behind the battered car.

Further north at Zvornik, heavily armed Bosnian Serb irregulars crouched behind sandbags and nervously eyed the hills above the border town. Across the river, in



what remains of the old Yugoslavia, a young policeman shook his head and sighed. "So that is the new republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina - madness, chaos and killing. They are making a new Lebanon and no one can stop them," he said.

UN sanctions have brought renewed calls in Belgrade from the Democratic opposition and Serbian academics for Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, to step down. Forty-six out of 90 members of the Serbian Academy of Science and Art have signed an appeal demanding that he and his regime resign for Serbia's sake.

The sanctions have also shaken the union of Serbia and Montenegro in a new Yugoslavia which Mr Milosevic is now rushing to reinforce by establishing a parliament and other institutions.

Momir Bulatovic, the Montenegrin president, hinted in an interview on Thursday that the union might be reviewed. His office later issued a denial but there are clear signs that Montenegro, having somewhat reluctantly joined the union with Serbia, regards Mr Milosevic as chiefly responsible for the sanctions and the new Yugoslavia's isolation.

● Rome: Margaret Thatcher criticised the European Community for doing "the minimum possible" to stop the bloodshed in Yugoslavia. In an interview in an Italian magazine, she said an aircraft carrier should have been sent to protect the historic town of Dubrovnik. (Reuters)



Community spirit: John Major and Helmut Kohl at the German chancellor's residence in Bonn yesterday for talks on the future of the EC after the rejection of the Maastricht treaty in the Danish referendum

Florence reclaims its paradise garden

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

FLORENTINES have rebelled against an attempt to make them pay 5,000 lire (£2.50) for tickets to stroll around the Giardino di Boboli, the terraced park behind the Pitti palace.

A thousand people led by Giorgio Morales, the mayor, on Tuesday staged a demonstration outside the gates of the garden when ticket offices were opened for the first time on the orders of Domenico Valentino, superintendent of environmental heritage. Signor Valentino contends he is merely applying a law requiring the public to pay entrance to "open air museums".

The demonstrators, many of them women and children, refused to pay and surged

past the ticket offices. The park was designed by Triboni in 1549 and is one of the few green spaces accessible to the public inside the city walls.

After another confrontation on Wednesday, Giorgio Musio, the prefect of Florence, overruled Signor Valentino on the ground that protests could cause "grave disturbances to order and public security". The prefect, who represents the Rome government in Tuscany, ordered custodians to allow Florentines free access for 60 days to a small section of the garden.

However, police had to intervene to have the gates opened on Thursday because custodians were slow to obey the decree.

Germans tighten law on asylum

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A SCHEME to process asylum-seekers to Germany through centralised camps, holding up to 500 at a time, was passed by the Bundestag yesterday.

The scheme was approved after eight months of bargaining between the government and opposition, with the aim of reducing the time needed to vet refugees to just six weeks. The idea is to concentrate all refugees in the camps, most of them former army barracks, to make it easier to prepare, hear and review their cases and make it possible then to deport them quickly, if they fail in their appeal. This is meant to end the abuse of the present system under which most refugees manage to stay for years, whether they are given asylum or not.

Part of the new regulations will include fingerprinting to ensure that those who have failed to obtain recognition once cannot make a second attempt under another name.

The need for a change in the cumbersome system, which has allowed an estimated million asylum-seekers to settle in Germany over the past decade, was agreed by all main parties last October, after a wave of violent attacks on foreigners by right-wing extremists. The Christian Democrats were worried about the growth of violent racism and the opposition Social Democrats, who govern most large cities, wanted constitutional ways to stem the flow of new foreign migrants.

More than half of the refugees now arriving will not be expelled anyway. This is because they come from places such as Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Iraq, where there is a war or an insecure environment, and Germany accepts it would be wrong to enforce repatriation.

● Rebel warned: Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat Union threatened to expel any politician thinking of forming a party to represent east Germans. The warning was aimed at Peter-Michael Diestel, the party dissident and former East German interior minister.

Aquino to make shoe tours free

President Aquino, who steps down at the end of the month, will throw open the gates of the Philippines presidential palace next week for free tours of Imelda Marcos' shoe collection and other exhibits.

The privately run Malacanang Palace museum said that it can only operate after June 30 "at the discretion of the incoming president", yet to be confirmed, who will take over that day.

The centrepiece of the museum, established after Ferdinand Marcos was removed in 1986, is a basement containing more than 1,220 pairs of shoes left by his widow. A bulletproof bra is among other items in the former first lady's collection.

● The leading Indonesian political dissident, Slamet Bratanata, 64, has died of a brain tumour, his daughter said.

● The American Foundation for AIDS Research, co-founded by the actress Elizabeth Taylor, has been awarded one of Spain's coveted Prince of Asturias prizes for its investigative work on Aids.

● Moscow city council is to return Alexander Solzhenitsyn's former apartment to the Nobel Prize-winning author, who was expelled from Russia in 1974 and now wants to move back.

● Germany has issued a second arrest warrant for the former East German leader, Erich Honecker, this time for embezzlement and breach of trust related to the privileged lifestyle he enjoyed.

● A baby boy fathered by the Aids-infected basketball star, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, has been tested HIV-negative. Cable News Network reported. His wife Earletha was also tested negative.

● Michael Jackson has been sued in Colorado for \$40 million (£2.5 million) by the songwriter Crystal Carter, who claimed that he stole her song *Dangerous*.

Happiness is a German traffic jam

Traffic jams are relaxing and fun for many motorists. This encouraging finding from a two-month investigation by the Hamburg leisure time research institute has been issued just in time to cheer up German drivers as they prepare for a traditionally sticky time over this Whitsun holiday weekend.

The researchers interviewed 2,483 drivers from all over Germany to find out what went on in their minds when they were trapped in a traffic jam, or *Stau*, to use the word so often seen on the warning signs above the more notoriously congested stretches of motorway.

The majority were, not surprisingly, unhappy when the traffic became stalled. The researchers found that different strains of "Stau fever" were widespread. Almost a third of drivers became nervous, 18 per cent became aggressive,

Many motorists get a masochistic kick from sweating it out in a long queue, Ian Murray writes from Bonn

and 16 per cent admitted they felt suddenly unwell. However, almost one driver in five had a "Stau lust" and actually enjoyed being caught in a jam. Others confessed that when they eventually got home exhausted after a particularly trying time in traffic, they had a masochistic feeling of well-being from having survived ordeal by *Stau*.

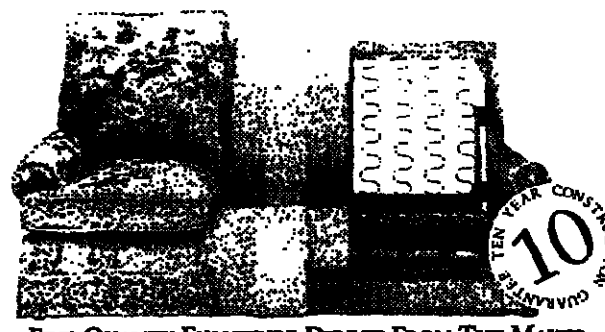
Women were more susceptible than men to *Stau* fever, suffering more readily from headaches or shortness of breath and sweating profusely as the car ground to a halt. Male drivers generally were cooler and more ready to adopt the attitude that "a little bit of chaos can be peaceful".

Eastern Germans, who enjoyed 40 years of almost *Stau*-free driving in the relatively carefree days of communist rule, tended to be significantly more happy to enjoy the relatively new experience of being jammed. Throughout the east, just over a quarter found sitting in a *Stau* to be positive while one in eight said they felt happy because it meant that they were actually in the middle of the action.

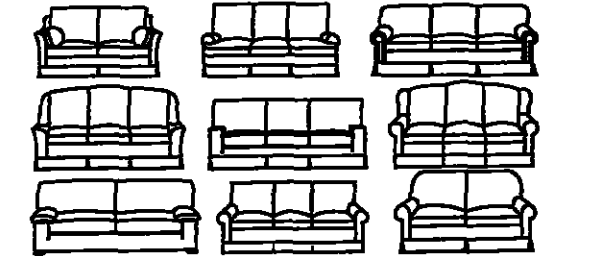
According to ADAC, the German automobile association, traffic jams 50 miles long are commonplace on motorways, especially during the summer.

A group of artists in Cologne has now formed the *Stau* friends' union, with "an asphalt-coloured" membership card like a driving licence, which entitles the holder "to participate in any jam session". They provide *Stau* bumper stickers so members can identify fellow sufferers, and *Stau* cassettes, containing 60 minutes of recorded highlights from the traffic jam bulletins which cut automatically into tapes or programmes on most German car radios.

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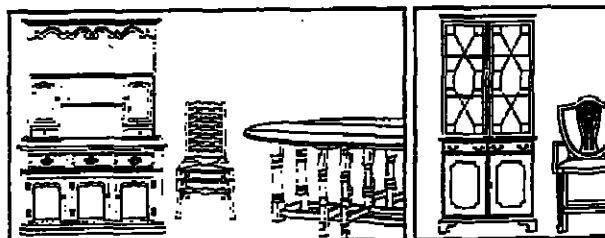
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Clifford Longley

Will Ireland ever join the liberal, secular world?

Ireland is about to cross a historic watershed on the way to becoming a modern, secular society. The Irish people seem to be uprooting the Roman Catholic Church from its dominant position in national life, and replanting it far from the centre of political power. That can only be healthy for the development of Irish liberal democracy. It is for the church itself to choose whether to let it be healthy for religion, or whether dithering is to mean anticlericalism. Here the signs are not so encouraging. From the point of view of the church's own interests, going out ungracefully, kicking and screaming, would be the worst possible outcome. If Catholicism ever collapses in Ireland, it is those responsible for that strategy who will be to blame. If the church does not rapidly adjust its stance and freely forgo its power rather than try once more to exert it, the consequence could be the growth of the sort of anticlericalism which is still deeply rooted in sections of society in Spain and France.

A key event in the accelerating secularisation process will be the Maastricht referendum on June 18. The Irish government says the referendum is entirely about Europe, and not at all about abortion, which got caught up in the Maastricht negotiation almost by accident. The Irish bishops, however, have called the treaty a "grave danger" to the unborn but, extraordinarily for Ireland, their statements have had virtually no impact on public opinion. For all the episcopal warnings, polls show anti-Maastricht sentiment in Ireland running at only 10 per cent, and even some of that can be attributed not to anti-abortion but to the small secular left.

Since the national shock at the case of the rape victim who was prevented by law from leaving the country for an abortion there has been a remarkable turnaround on the issue except by the bishops. The Supreme Court's decision that in certain cases abortion was permitted under Irish law is supported by a majority of the population, making the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child look distinctly fanatical in its continued absolutism. Among Irish women, support for abortion "in certain circumstances" has moved from 37 per cent five years ago to 60 per cent now. Clearly if the bishops and the anti-abortion campaigners press their opposition to another referendum, they will lose. One plaintive letter from an anti-abortionist in a Dublin newspaper protested that not everybody of that opinion should be dismissed as an extremist. The attitude which was all but universal ten years ago is now held only by a self-conscious and defensive minority. Some of this abortion-fatigue can doubtless also be attributed to the ever more labyrinthine connection between abortion, Maastricht, and the national constitution. It is difficult to find anybody in Ireland who claims to understand the link. But above all there is a widespread mood of resigned cynicism about the church and state relationship new in Irish politics.

This follows close on the disgrace of Bishop Eamonn Casey after the disclosure of his clandestine affair. There is a collapse in the mystique surrounding episcopal authority in the eyes of ordinary people and even among priests. People have not stopped going to Mass. But what they hear, they hear differently. The inveterate triumphalism of Irish Catholicism, which has set so much of its character for 150 years, suddenly looks utterly hollow.

After the referendum there is the prospect of legislation on contraception and to guarantee the right to travel, and a referendum next year to legalise divorce. Only the easing of the legal position of homosexuals is not yet on the cards. Ireland is now backing out of the moral cul-de-sac of absolutist Catholic doctrine imposed by law. Though the kind of Irish Catholic society conceived by de Valera in 1936 certainly did so, modern Catholicism does not expect any such alignment between the church's moral teaching and the civil law. Even the bishops have now admitted it, though without facing the full implications for abortion law. "Many actions which are immoral are not prohibited by the state," they said in a recent statement, "because attempts to prohibit them could lead to an unacceptable infringement of the personal liberty of citizens in a free society and could bring the law into disrepute." And furthermore, they might have added for their own benefit, could bring the church into disrepute too. That is the real danger to them now. Ireland is suddenly growing up fast, leaving the bishops far behind.

Gavin Stamp on the bad architecture and worse planning which helped sink Docklands

How not to plan a city



Skyscraper builder: Gary Cooper in *The Fountainhead*

There are no precedents in London or in Britain for Canary Wharf, either for the scale of its conception or the magnitude of its failure. For understanding we have to look across the Atlantic, whence came most of its architects, all its developers and much of their cash. The striking image of Canary Wharf, the single colossal tower glinting in the sun, reminds me most of the overweening skyscraper whose realisation on former slum land in New York concludes Ayn Rand's proto-Thatcherite gospel of individualism, *The Fountainhead* — a novel made into the best of architectural movies with Gary Cooper as the uncompromising architect-as-hero.

Canary Wharf itself starred in another architectural film, the Prince of Wales's *Vision of Britain*, in a hilarious sequence in which HRH examined a model of the whole project and asked the architect of the great tower, Cesar Pelli: "Why does it have to be quite so tall?" No satisfactory answer was forthcoming, and then Sir Roy Strong, artistic adviser to the Reichmann Brothers, chipped in: "With great respect, sir, if people had said the same thing about the medieval cathedrals they would never have got built." And there, happily, is moral justification for the unworthy emotion of *schadenfreude* which many of us feel at the collapse of Olympia & York. It is

not merely "I told you so": it is a reaction to the sheer scale of the arrogance and hubris of the Reichmanns that they thought they could not only give London the tallest tower and the largest development in Europe, but also ignore the history and character of our capital. Medieval cathedrals dominated because they were collective symbols of the place of religion in society and expressions of an organic and properly hierarchical conception of cities. The Canary Wharf tower, in contrast, as a temple of Mammon, is merely a monument to uncontrolled individualism and private enterprise.

Except that it is not. This failed development was not raised with private money alone but, like all of the new Docklands, was a product of massive hidden subsidy — government intervention without the usual planning control. This is the essence of Docklands' failure and the greatest irony.

In one way it is a pity that it had to be Canary Wharf that failed as the development is a cut above the rest of Docklands. Not that that is saying much. As Stephanie Williams puts it in the memorable first line of her recent architectural guide to the

area, "London's Docklands contains one of the worst collections of late 20th-century buildings to be seen anywhere in the world." There are a few highlights, such as John Outram's pumping station, but the general run of commercial architecture is tawdry and dismal — a result, if not a necessary consequence, of the absence of any sane planning controls. Canary Wharf, itself, stands out as ordered and

planned, while it must be admitted that Cesar Pelli's tower is a beautiful thing: a sheer, pure obelisk of glass and metal belonging in the heroic skyscraper tradition. I am not so delighted with the other, lower buildings, however. One of the most repulsive architectural sights of the 1980s was seeing prefabricated panels with ill-proportioned pediments and columns hoisted up onto the

steel frames that flanked the old West India Docks basins. The model for this was Olympia & York's development at Battery Park in Manhattan. Yet what Canary Wharf most reminds me of lies not west but east — in Bucharest. Like the Reichmann brothers, the late President Ceausescu laid out a grand straight avenue going nowhere, lined with dense urban blocks titivated with postmodern classical detail in concrete. What this unexpected but striking similarity reveals about the convergence of both late communist and late capitalist megalomania I cannot say, but it may be significant that the president's architect was Paris-trained.

Paris is the home of the grand gesture, and the conventional model for those who would plan our cities. But the orderliness of Paris is a reflection of authoritarian politics: boulevards are laid out, cultural grand projects arise at the whim of a Napoleon III or President Mitterrand. We do not do things like that in London, a city of private enterprise and haphazard growth rather than order and symmetry. But not even Mitterrand proposed anything as unreal as megalomaniac as Canary Wharf. The only equivalent is La

Défense, the office complex that rises up where the sun sets at the far end of the Champs Elysées. But La Défense would never have happened if the necessary transport links had not first been built, and it was never expected to succeed overnight.

Olympia & York, in contrast, thought they could reverse the historic growth of London westwards and compete with the City in just a few years — in defiance of the difficulties of travelling east and despite the impossibility of instantly providing all the other amenities that make the Square Mile uniquely attractive: pubs and restaurants, narrow alleys and old churchyards — in short, all the products of slow, organic urban development.

Canary Wharf might have stood slightly more chance of success had decent public transport been laid out at the start, but ideological government parsimony ensured that the Docklands Light Railway would be an incompetent toy-town joke rather than an integrated and efficient limb of the London Transport network. Now, not even building the Jubilee Line extension — a decade too late — can redeem this failure to understand London's history.

But Docklands will still have its place in the history books. Already it is visited and closely studied by hordes of foreign architects and planners — as a perfect model of how not to plan cities.

Jackboots on the village green

Unmown lawn or untidy hedge?

Beware the rural thought police, writes a chastened Kerry Gill

If a family were to move into our village in Stirlingshire today they might or might not receive a visit from the vicar asking whether he could expect them at Communion on Sunday. What is certain though is that this very evening, just as the family sat down to dinner, there would be a peremptory rap on the door by a Best Kept Village official demanding to know why their hedge was too high, when the lone dandelion poking its head above the paving stones would be removed and, should no misdemeanours have been recorded, a request for them to buy a box of pansies with which to decorate their front window sills.

Up and down the country the first breath of summer has turned the Best Kept Village activists onto our village streets. From now until autumn they will conduct their annual, bossy little campaigns to further the municipalisation of rural Britain. With their park-keeper mentalities the BKV conscripts are being marshalled to turn our villages into the prissy suburban enclaves whence most of them have come.

Nature, its weeds, unkempt hedges and verges, and unmanicured shrubbery, is a pestilence to them. In their thousands, with looks of self-righteous priggy, they will spend the next three or four months scouring the village streets with their potent brand of cul-de-sac hygiene. Where an ancient trodden path once served, concrete flags will be

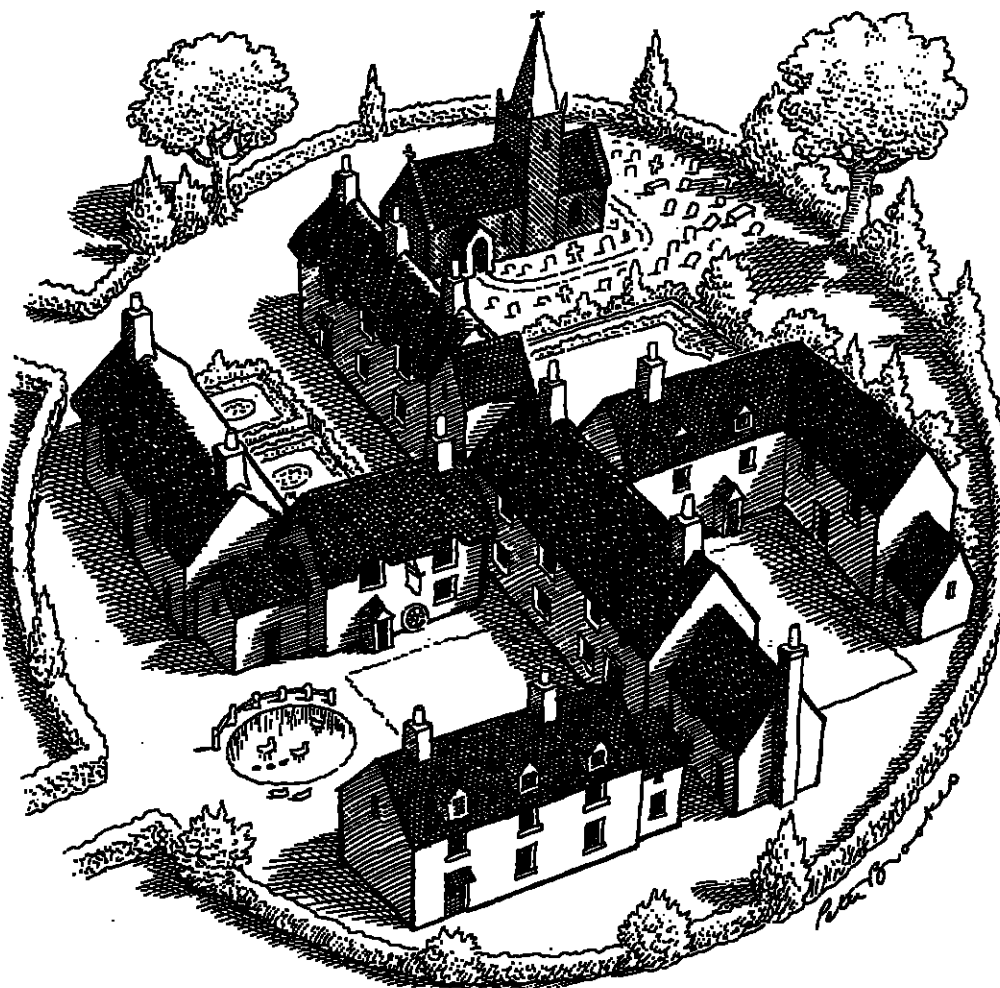
placed. The rough village green will be neatly mown, varnished park benches set down and woe betide any brats who should risk playing football on the green.

Anyone who thinks that the Best Kept Village movement is conservationist should think again. Generally its members tend not to like trees unless they are flowering cherries. Trees attract birds which, as nature intended, are liable to leave droppings on their immaculate garden centre, rustic-style flagstones.

If you think this is an exaggeration you should come to our village where, on the morning of "judgment day" by the BKV authorities, the weaker-willed villagers are driven up the street to pick up any foreign body that might turn the stomach of one of the judges. The dissidents, and there are many in our village, usually make sure they have plenty of work to do.

Those toiling from dawn to dusk for the coveted awards love flowers, and the daintier the better, especially when they are planted in uniform ranks or stuffed into hanging baskets. Baskets and tubs are distributed up and down streets, but particularly in front of areas which they consider unpalatable, places like garages, sheds, bus shelters, public lavatories or anywhere that does not conform to their Legoland concept of the modern village.

The movement has superseded the local squirearchy. Each community's BKV cell is led by a few members of the aspiring



middle class for whom the idea of noblesse oblige is delicious. While they decree the future pattern of Britain's villages for the good of us all, they are aided by those whose desire to belong within the BKV hierarchy is so great that they are prepared to be treated as serfs. Why else would an otherwise sane woman spend days on hands and knees planting rows of pansies along a village street?

BKV people are as rude as they are soppy. Their sentimental view of the village street fuels a boundless cheek. A woman friend opened her curtains one morning to find one of them cutting her hedge. She was told it looked untidy. Another family found several of them in their grounds taking cuttings. The self-importance of the average village activist increases with every season.

An acquaintance had hardly drawn breath after moving into a "conservation" village before he received a visit from a representative of the local committee. It had been noticed that his windows were of the sash type and the committee wanted to know when he would be replacing them with small panes. The man replied that the replacement of his windows was a very big job and not at the top

of his priorities. Furthermore, having just bought the house, there was precious little spare cash left.

When the committee learnt that his suggestion might be ignored, it decided on a second visit. This time it was suggested to the householder that, instead of replacing all his windows as requested he could surely scrape enough money together so that he could buy several rolls of white sellotape and stick it on the windows to produce the required rustic effect. When challenged on any aspect of their work the stock reply of these neurotic, would-be gauleiters is: "Don't you care about your village?"

The dissidents do care, of course, a point forever lost on the followers of this dim organisation who demand prettiness, cleanliness and, above all, no horrible smells of the farmyard. But the trouble is, one suspects, that most people believe the village activists "do a great job". Day trippers who stumble on a village that apes their own suburban back gardens are hardly likely to quail in horror. Instead they sit digesting their farmhouse tea on the newly varnished park benches longing for the day when they too can move into such a rural retreat and sort out the locals.

Almost as soon as he has arrived to live in his village the true BKVer will join the action group pledged to fight all new development. Almost? One I heard of actually joined the action group before his own house was built. The funny thing is that they are never found sitting, dreaming in their own gardens sniffing the smells of the countryside. They hate the place.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Because of distance and difficulty, Japanese has had less interaction with English than most other languages. But even that is changing. Most Japanese study English at school from eight to ten years. And those who ask you, unwisely, to film them with their video cameras standing beside Peter Pan at Kensington Gardens, certainly speak English better than I speak Japanese.

Japanese is a strong independent language, which is nevertheless being affected by the worldwide spread of English. Nobody quite knows the genetic relationship of Japanese to other languages. The best guess is that it is an eccentric member of the Altaic family, that vast group of languages that spreads from Turkey to the frozen north-east tip of Asia, and is named after the Altai mountain region of Mongolia and China.

Its logic and imagery are very different from English. D.J. Enright, who was a visiting professor at Kōnan University for three years, wrote: "The Japanese language is such that by the time you know it sufficiently well for your knowledge to make any vital difference, it is probable that you will be too enervated — if indeed you are nothing worse than enervated — to write about the Japanese people. You may not even notice them any more." A Japanese student told Peter Quennell: "I think that the English language is the expression of the English people as well as the Japanese

language is that of the Japanese. The English people are creative like a fountain jumping up toward Heaven eternally. Therefore the English language is always fresh and pure. The Japanese people are rather mechanical like a rat coming out of hole. Therefore the Japanese language is hesitating."

I don't know about rats coming out of holes. But there is a conceptual chasm as wide as the Altai mountains between Japanese and English. Both are languages of ambiguities and indirection.

Tourism and television and pop culture are bridging the chasm between the two languages. Japanese words from *sumo* to *sukiyaki* are coming into the central core of English, understood by the average Briton who has never ventured farther east than Southend, perhaps being subtly changed in the process by alien film directors and alien cooks.

The tide of lingo flows even more strongly from English into Japanese, because of the craze of the Japanese young for everything American. This is as keen as it was in Britain in the Fifties and Sixties, and produces the remarkable dialect known as *genglish* or *japlish*, strong on trendy vocabulary, weak on coherence. For example, on the back of a scarlet satin windcheater worn by a post-Elvis Japanese youth: "Here comes Colorful Show with Groovy Jump into the dreamy paradise on taking it make you groovy over satisfaction! Yes!" I

suppose we could try to construe this as: "Here comes the grooviest whizzbang swinger in a red jacket in town. OK? But such translation is to misunderstand the purpose of Japlish, which is to convey a general air of English, or rather American, not sense. It is an advertising calligraphic design, where the medium is the message, and the meaning is minimal."

So a Japanese sports bag carries the message: "A drop of sweat is the precious gift for your guts." Another jacket gives this enigmatic advice: "Vigorous throw-up. Go on a journey." A ski-jacket tries to emphasise long-term friendship: "Let's go skiing since 1886." In Japan you can eat chocolate called "Hand-Maid Queen-Ald", drink "Homo Milk" or "Pocari Sweat" (a popular soft drink), or, if you feel the need, go out and buy some "Arm Free Grand Slam Munsingwear".

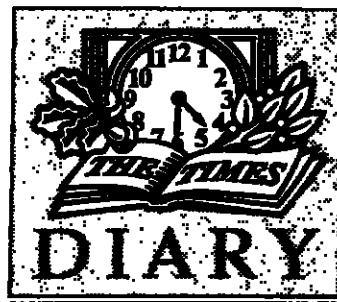
One man's Japlish is another man's gibberish. When languages and cultures start so far apart as English and Japanese, it is bound to take time for them to understand each other. You might as well expect intelligible Japanese characters on the scenery of an amateur English production of *The Mikado* as coherent prose in Japlish. Japanese copywriters go in for the look of the thing and never mind the grammar. It will take time. In the meantime we must carry on trying to explain about Peter Pan to the tourists in Japlish. From their looks, they reckon we are a rum race.

A plum in the east

APPARENTLY unmoved by criticisms of the so-called "brat pack" during the last election, Chris Patten has rewarded a leading member of the youthful Central Office team which ran one of the worst Tory campaigns in memory with the plum job of principal adviser to the new governor of Hong Kong, Edward Leung, aged 26, recently passed over for the post of political secretary to John Major because of his youth, has landed the consolation prize of a three-year contract with the Hong Kong government, believed to be worth in the region of £60,000 a year, tax free.

Leung, an old Etonian who went to New College, Oxford, will fly to Hong Kong at the beginning of July, a week before Patten officially becomes governor of the colony. Currently head of the foreign affairs desk at Tory Central Office research department, Leung is a European specialist rather than a Far East expert, prompting cruel jokes among jealous Tory colleagues that Patten has picked one of the few men in Britain who knows less about Hong Kong than the new governor himself.

Once a die-hard Thatcherite, Leung has quickly adapted to the changing political landscape. When Mrs Thatcher delivered her first speeches on Europe from America last summer, it was Leung who produced the early drafts. A few days later he popped up as one of the architects of John Major's far more pragmatic address on the same subject to the Konrad Adenauer Institute. As a result he was given an increasingly influential role and was seconded to be at Major's side on the battle bus throughout the election.



While George Bush and John Major wrestle at Camp David over the biodiversity treaty, most criticism surrounds its "unsustainability" as a result of poor drafting. Some in Whitehall were always determined that, regardless of what the politicians thought, Britain would sign up. But what Mr Major may not realise is that the treaty was largely drafted by one of his own: take a bow, Dr David Fisk, Chief Scientific Officer at this Department of Environment.

Change of address

AS THE new life peers celebrate their elevation to the House of Lords today, what of their spouses? While David Owen considers what title to take, his wife, the successful literary agent Debbie Owen, was declaring at a Bayswater party for William Shakespeare on Thursday night that she would far prefer to remain plain Mrs Owen. When one guest prematurely referred to her as Lady Owen she visibly cringed.

As yet she may have more support from baronesses than barons. Labour ladies seem to love the title. Denis Healey, for example, yesterday insisted: "Edna will be plain Lady Healey." Support for Debbie Owen comes from fellow American Marjorie Thompson,

the chairman of CND and long-standing partner of the Welsh Nationalist, Dafydd Elis Thomas. If and when they get married she, too, will refuse to allow anyone to call her Lady. Dr Mary Archer, wife of Jeffrey, has yet to declare her view: his ennoblement is expected next week.

As for the male spouses of titled women, they remain plain Mr. Lady Trumpington, the former agriculture minister, complains about the problems of checking into hotels. The poor husbands, signing the register as plain Mr, are frequently taken for the chauffeur... or worse.

Cries and Whiskas

EVERYTHING these days has its price and, not far behind, a sponsor or with a corporate logo. Halifax Town football club is not exactly the biggest catch for a thriving company wanting to see its name emblazoned on *Match of the Day*. So it was more in hope than expectation that John McGrath, the club manager, recently sent a round robin seeking sponsorship. In addition to the usual invitations covering the centre forward's shirt and the goalkeeper's boots, McGrath put out to tender everything else — down to the club cat, Benny. Ethan Adams, a computer software company, which already sponsors the halftime cuppa at Wolverhampton Wanderers, has now stepped in and agreed to sponsor 365 tins of Whiskas next season. The club denies rumours that if their league fortunes do not revive, Benny may find himself sharing his pre-match lunch with the rest of the team.

Special issue

THE management of the English National Opera is showing a quite blatant disregard for Noël Cow-

ard's famous advice to Mrs Worthington. David Pountney, the company's director of productions has not only his daughter on the stage but his son, too. Eight-year-old James is currently appearing in ENO's *Falstaff* as Sir John's page, while his sister Amilia is in the chorus. "They made their debut as foxcubs in *The Cunning Little Vixen*. They were such a hit they were asked to audition for their current roles," says a spokesman, who insists there was no favouritism. Going perhaps one better, Peter Jonas, general director of the



ENO, is to put his wife on the boards. Lucy Jonas will make her debut tomorrow night in Benjamin Britten's *Noyes Fludde* at the Royal Festival Hall — as an ostrich.

The culinary legacy of Elizabeth David will linger on the nation's taste buds for years to come, but what of her artistic bequest? Four months before her death, David donated her most valuable painting, *The Eggs by Cedric Morris*, to the Tate Gallery. According to friends she stipulated that it should be put on display within three months. There is still no sign of the picture but the gallery says: "We are hoping to find a slot soon," insists a spokesman.



ADVANCE ON RIO

Attacked by American greens for his anti-Rio electioneering, President Bush protests that America is second to none in its concern for global environmental protection. Therefore America should not be damned because it will not sign the bio-diversity convention at this month's Earth summit.

Mr Bush's second claim is truer than his first. When John Major sits down with him to rehearse each country's approach to Rio, their joint goal must be to make both claims equally true. America has valid objections to the bio-diversity treaty, objections partly shared by Britain. Mr Major has ideas for resolving them. But if he is to go on to Rio in the hope of brokering a deal, he has to have American good will for his efforts. That is what his meeting with Mr Bush in Camp David is about.

Britain has already successfully nursed the United States towards a more sympathetic participation in the Rio conference. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, helped to weaken the global warming treaty to bring it below America's pain threshold, on the ground that a weak anti-pollution agreement which America could sign was better than a strong one which it rejected. In the case of bio-diversity, a treaty which was acceptable to America would almost certainly overcome Britain's objections too.

The modifications necessary to meet British and American doubts would not significantly harm the interests of any other participating nation. At present industrially advanced countries need pay nothing to the nation of origin in return for access to its rare species of fauna and flora, though they may use those species in research which leads to profitable new drugs or plant strains. It is right that poor countries should start to share in such profits and in genetic research. This is what the treaty attempts to achieve.

Attempts, but at present fails; and the flaws cannot be put right by renegotiation in the few days allotted to Rio. There is another

way. The draft treaty was initiated in Nairobi on May 22 by 98 countries. Its text was produced at the eleventh hour in the pre-Rio negotiations by Mostapha Tolba, head of the UN Environment Programme, on a take-it-or-leave-it basis, after months of unproductive north-south wrangling. Representatives of 19 members of the rich-nation OECD initiated it only with an explanatory memorandum. This indicated that unless the treaty was interpreted in a certain way, they were dissenting from it. But the memorandum has no force in international law.

What Britain seems to have in mind is to attach to the text a binding annex on the principles for interpreting the treaty's financial provisions. This would meet the main Anglo-American objection. As it stands, the treaty gives the poorer nations a virtual blank cheque drawn on the treasuries of the richer nations, and at the same time enables the poorer nations to outvote the richer nations on how such funds should be spent.

Similarly, Anglo-American misgivings about the treaty's treatment of intellectual property might be resolved if certain sweeping interpretations of the text were ruled out in advance. Mr Howard has complained that some treaty clauses drive a coach and horses through intellectual property rights. The answer is to block the road with a more restrictive statement of what is intended, to allow legitimate protection to commercial secrets and patents.

America and Britain both recognise that what is at stake is much more than who shall profit from the international traffic in rare species and their genes. Rio offers the best chance of preserving as many as possible of the present varieties of living forms in the world. This priceless stock of genetic richness urgently demands a workable treaty to protect it. Once destroyed it can never be replaced. For America and Britain to take the lead in preventing that would be the ideal outcome of the Rio conference.

ROADS TO FREEDOM

Yesterday Poland lost yet another prime minister and another government. East Europe's post-revolutionary hangover is now becoming acute. Early progress by the fledgling Eastern democracies towards capitalism through shock therapy has been paid for with mass unemployment and dislocation. People who once had wads of notes in their pockets but nothing in the shops now find shops groaning with Western goods that few can afford to buy. Now democracy itself is feeling the strain. Disillusionment with squabbling, shiftless politicians has set in.

Two thirds of the Czechs and Slovaks who go to the polls today say that their country has "too much democracy". Hungarians are distracted by quarrels between president and prime minister. But Polish politics is saddest of all. The Poles suffered dismemberment by the three most reactionary powers of the ancient regime yet never lost their taste for freedom. After a false dawn between the world wars, Poland was butchered by the tyrannies of Hitler and Stalin. Poles struggled for four decades against the postwar settlement until communism broke on the rock of their stubborn resistance. The hero of this struggle, Solidarity, is no longer united. Factions snipe at each other from different parties. The former leader, President Lech Walesa, is discarded by former colleagues as a would-be dictator.

Communism deprived the East and Poland of the political maturity to avoid the present haggling of coalition partnerships. Poland returned 29 parties after its first full free elections last October. In these conditions nobody has enough power to govern, not parliament, not government, not the president. The country has a chaotic version of Italian proportional representation, without the bedrock of a mature free-market economy. It does not even have the dubious

stability of the Machiavellian manoeuvrings of the Italian Christian Democrats.

In the West, divergent opinions are normally contained within relatively disciplined mass parties. In the East, parties still seem unable to encompass a spectrum of opinion. Proportional representation, wished on the new democracies by foolish Western advisers, is proving a disaster. Minor disagreements result in ever more splinter groups. The voters see their politicians as selfish operators pursuing limited power for their short-term advantage. Coherent government led by disciplined parties able to command stable majorities in national assemblies is proving ever harder to sustain. The danger is becoming ever clearer: a tendency on all sides to look for a strong man to lead the country more forcefully towards capitalism's land of milk and honey.

The West's reaction, and Britain's in particular, should be one of wary sympathy. Post-Versailles Poland was bedevilled by the hostility of well-meaning Britons eager to write off the new nation. Keynes said Poland was "an economic impossibility". Lewis Namier called Poland "pathological" and E. H. Carr, amongst other things an influential advocate of realpolitik in *The Times*, described it as a "farce". After the second world war liberal apologists for Soviet order were no less influential.

Britain forgets too quickly that many present allies in the European Community have had worse political teething problems without suffering Poland's historical disabilities. Poles have fought through fire to win their freedom. It would be wrong to expect too much from their first steps. But it would be helpful to offer better advice on political reform than has been offered in the recent past. Every European has a vested interest in democracy in the East. This weekend it remains a frail flower.

FIXING FIXTURES

So David Mellor is not to have his little list. The heritage secretary announced yesterday that there is to be no extension of the listing of historic houses to embrace moveable, and thus internationally saleable, works of art of national importance. He is right, though not for the reason given, that listing would diminish the rights of owners to deal with their property as they wish. So do historic buildings lists, planning controls and export restrictions. The question is merely how best to achieve three simple goals.

The first is that great works of architecture be not molested, a goal met by historic buildings control. The second is that moveable works of art integral to those buildings such as murals, architect-designed furnishings and works of art associated with the building's history, should not be stripped from them. Many owners vociferously argue that they should be able to buy and sell family artworks as did their predecessors. They point out that sales are one way of keeping houses in good repair. The Warwick, Bedford and Spencer families have all met fierce opposition from conservationists for their disposals. It was such disposals that the new list, proposed by the review committee on the export of artworks, was to stem.

Mr Mellor believes that such a list would be unmanageable. It would take years to prepare — Portugal's has all but collapsed as a result — and would mean a flood of sales as owners sought to pre-empt listing by selling their property first. It would be an invitation to smuggling. The listing authorities would most likely be over-enthusiastic. Families would find their assets, and their ability to manage crises in house maintenance, drastically diminished. The owners lobbied hard and have won their case.

If there is to be no list of moveable works,

the historic buildings list should be revised to include fixtures, fittings and works of art that might be considered part of the reason for the original listing. The removal of the Three Graces from Woburn drew attention to this weakness: a building designed for a sculpture could suffer from that sculpture's removal even when the building was protected. The same applies to murals, fireplaces and ornamental statuary. Such protection might be achieved without relisting, by a court case which defined such fixtures as part of the package protected under the present law.

There remains a third goal, to keep truly national treasures wherever they may be housed from departing abroad. There is much chauvinist nonsense talked on this subject. Art is for the world to enjoy and has always been disseminated by international sale. Britain has enough Constables not to invoke constraints on trade to stop one leaving for France or Japan. There are treasures that it would be sad to lose, such as Canaletto's *View of the Old House Guards*, which was saved by Andrew Lloyd Webber. But there is a mechanism in place to save other such works, the "Waverley" stop on a sale pending a public appeal.

This system has come under strain because prices have risen and public appeals have found it hard to match them. That difficulty must be met other than by sealing borders: by continuing to ask the public to judge, by donation or by protest, whether a work should be bought for the nation before export. In the last resort, it should be met by those dispensing public funds having more at their disposal, notably the National Heritage Memorial Fund. This system is essentially fair but needs shoring up. Mr Mellor should now look to that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Maastricht: dead, or alive but in need of resuscitation?

From Mr Stephen Woodard

Sir, The Maastricht agreement is not dead; neither is its implementation outside the Treaty of Rome or its wholesale renegotiation required to keep it alive, as you suggest in your leader today. It is the exact wording of the current treaty, rather than the substance of the agreement, that can no longer be considered valid because of its rejection by the Danish people.

This rejection can easily be overcome by the use of the same opt-out formula which overcame British objections to the early drafts of the agreement. The Danish government needs to decide which policy areas of the treaty it can identify which are less acceptable to the Danish people than others, such as monetary union, foreign and security policy, interior policy or indeed social policy. It can then negotiate an opt-out clause on these specific areas and call a second referendum on a revised treaty text including these opt-outs.

The difficulty for Denmark will be to identify their areas of disagreement as some voted against the treaty because it went too far, others because it did not go far enough and yet others who simply wished to register a protest vote against the government and the style of the campaign as it appeared too arrogant.

There is some evidence already that some of those who voted against the treaty (particularly amongst these last two categories) now regret their vote as they had previously believed the "No" campaign could not win and so they could exercise a "safe" protest. Once, however, suitable parts of the text relating to specific policies can be identified and made subject to an opt-out clause the matter can swiftly be concluded and returned to the people of Denmark for a fresh vote.

The only way that the Maastricht agreement will effectively be killed is if a wholesale renegotiation of the treaty is initiated. This is doubtless the motive behind those "Euro-sceptics" who seek to reopen the debate.

To start again will mean the end of all the compromises carefully entered into the treaty and will make any new agreement unlikely. This is not acceptable and the British government is right to reject it. If the other member states remain as resolute there should be no problem in overcoming the Danish difficulty

quickly and implementing the over-all Maastricht agreement by the end of the year.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN WOODARD
(Assistant Director,
European Movement,
1a Whitehall Place, SW1,
June 4.

From Dr Alan Sked

Sir, The decision by Community foreign ministers to press ahead with the Maastricht treaty despite its rejection by Denmark is plainly illegal. Article 236 of the Treaty of Rome makes it crystal clear that unanimous ratification is required for the Treaty to stand.

If such unlawful conduct is indeed to be the Community's response, then European leaders should be aware that ordinary citizens of Community states will be under no obligation to obey Community laws either.

In the absence of a *Rechtsstaat* (a state based on the rule of law) they will have every right — not to say a moral, legal and constitutional obligation — to refuse to pay taxes, withhold obedience, and, if necessary, resort to armed resistance.

Mr Hurd and his colleagues must think again.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SKED
(Chairman, Anti-Federalist League,
Flat 3, Aberdeen Court,
68 Aberdeen Park, Highbury, N5,
June 5.

From Sir Richard Body, MP for

Holland with Boston (Conservative)

Sir, The small majority against the Maastricht treaty was not a true reflection of Danish opinion. I was asked by the organisers of the "No" campaign to go to Denmark to advise on tactics and also to rebut the assertion that the British people were overwhelmingly in favour of the treaty.

I was dismayed to find that there was scarcely any money to fight an adequate campaign. In the result, for every one kroner paid in putting the "No" case, about 20 kroner were spent by the other side. If we had had an equal amount to spend several of their claims could have been countered — that 200,000 jobs would be lost by a "No" vote (the equivalent of two million in the UK); that there

would be no more investment from abroad; that the other 11 members would go on without the Danes who would be "permanently cut off from Europe"; that Danish farmers would be made bankrupt; and that Britain, Denmark's closest ally, was wholeheartedly in favour of the Danes voting "Yes".

I spoke to many Danes who were unnerved by these arguments and told me that they would have to vote for Maastricht. There can be no doubt that their fears were shared by a large proportion of the Danish people who would otherwise have voted differently.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BODY,
House of Commons,
June 4.

From Lord Cobbold

Sir, The move towards reconciliation and co-operation between European nations has been probably the most positive and constructive feature of the second half of the 20th century. We have to hope that this week's Danish referendum does not represent a turning point.

The stability and success of the European Community, albeit under the umbrella of Nato, has been the inspiration for Europe's eastern population in its struggle against the economic and intellectual poverty of communism.

As the people of Eastern Europe and of the Russian empire rediscover their identity and their independence, the free peoples of the European Community must not allow themselves to slip back into the catastrophic patterns of nationalism. The beacon of co-operation that has shone into the totalitarian darkness must not now be dimmed.

Yours faithfully,
COBOLD,
House of Lords,
June 4.

From Mr Julian Sankey

Sir, Surely your headline today, "EC gives Danes time to rethink on Maastricht", is the wrong way round?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SANKEY,
8 Turnpike Road,
Shaw, Newbury, Berkshire,
June 5.

smooth transition to democratic rule and that if he went ahead the government of this country would publicly denounce him.

I write specifically to condemn the Foreign Office for pursuing a hidden agenda which could have very serious consequences, not only for Lesotho but for the whole of southern Africa and the people there.

If the integrity of the elections in Lesotho is to be protected then there must first be an immediate restoration of basic human rights and civil liberties. This is impossible unless the vicious internal security acts and decrees are repealed.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
TREVOR HUDDLESTON,
St James's Church,
197 Piccadilly, W1,
June 2.

Monarchy in Lesotho

From Archbishop Trevor Huddleston

Sir, King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho has been an unwilling exile in this country for two years as a result of his opposition to the policies of the Military Council that has ruled Lesotho since January 1986.

His right to the monarchy has never been revoked constitutionally by referendum to the people but only by decree of the non-elected Military Council. The king has now decided to return to his own country (report, May 30).

Without warning, on the morning set for his departure, he was summoned by the Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker, to her office. There he was told that his return would set back prospects for a

Growing pains

From Mrs Catherine M. Money

Sir, There is a solution to Peter Arup's problem of children with big feet (letter, May 29). I, too, have two sons, aged nine and ten with enormous feet, and thus fall into the VAT trap. The solution for Mr Arup is to take his family to Italy for a long weekend.

On the assumption that each boy will need eight pairs of shoes in a year, as the feet continue to grow without any regard to Mr Arup's bank balance (two pairs everyday shoes, two pairs good shoes, two pairs trainers, one pair cricket boots, one pair football boots, and let's forget the wellies) which means 16 pairs for two boys, at an average (even modestly) cost of £35 a pair, this will cost £560 per annum.

All these shoes are available in better quality with better styling at half the price in Italy, thus saving £280, which will pay for the whole weekend for one of Mr Arup's family.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE MONEY,
Biddles Farm, Chobham,
Woking, Surrey,
May 29.

Measure for measure

From Dr F. Ian Lamb

Sir, Confusion on metrication is not confined to Britain (Nigel Hawkes, "Error of our weights", May 29). I have just returned from nine months in Italy, where the pack of frozen peas between the single person's pack of 100g and the family pack of 1kg is not the logical 500g, but rather 450g, as near to 1lb as you can get and still use a (fairly) round number.

I had a TV with a screen measuring 14 polid, or inches: I decorated my flat with a mixture of 2 1/2 in and 64mm paint brushes from the same shop, and I had to buy a 27 in replacement wheel for my racing bike, a French model sold in London with 700mm wheels.

Confusion may reign in the UK, but we are not alone.

Yours faithfully,
F. I. LAMB,
61 Woodland Gardens,
Muswell Hill, N10.

Casting a fly on far-flung rivers

From Mr M. Davidson-Houston

Sir, Like Mr Roper-Evans (letter, May 30) I was recently signed up by my wife for two weeks' hard labour at a Romanian asylum and, like him, I am a keen fisherman. On my only day off during this "holiday" I persuaded a friend to drive me up the Carpathians in Transylvania.

The country and many of the streams were mouth-watering, but we discovered en route that even in late April (the Orthodox Easter) the season had not yet opened. The higher hills were still under snow. The most idyllic river I inspected was in the pass leading up to Poljoria, hundreds of log-built weirs breaking the fall of the river into a myriad of outstandingly fishable pools.

I hope that Mr Roper-Evans gets over the wall of his monastery to reach this soul-restoring stretch of heaven.

Regards,
MICHAEL DAVIDSON-HOUSTON,
Bell House, Braughing,
Ware, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Adrian Steger

Sir, Mr Roper-Evans is not alone with the problem of fishing on holiday. I shall be in the Hindu Raj, where, if the streams are anything like those in Kashmir are reputed to be, trout are to be found.

Unfortunately, the only book to hand (*The Rod in India*, 1897) hardly mentions the northern areas or trout, rather discussing another fish, the mahseer.

To make matters worse I have been advised to use a spinner! I could therefore be after the wrong fish with the wrong tackle.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN STEGER,
52 Fenwick Road,
Peckham Rye, SE15.

From Mrs Arabella Kiszely

Sir, In his quest for a suitable trout fly for Eastern Carpathia, Mr Roper-Evans may be interested to hear that I distinctly remember reports, at about the time of President Ceausescu's demise, of the Bloody Butcher making a considerable killing in the area.

Yours faithfully,
ARABELLA KISZELEY,
Hopp House, BFPO 30.

From Mr G. B. Durham

Sir, Some 18 years ago I was in Russian Moldavia — which borders on the Carpathians — where trout streams abound. The local peasantry advised the use of the *Pokazny* (Ostentation).

Perhaps your monastic holiday-maker may care to try it, unless of course his is an enclosed community. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
G. B. DURHAM,
Broad Oak House, Broad Oak,
Garway, Herefordshire.

From Mr William Shields

Sir, A Red Abbey might be tactless, but the trout might welcome a Priest. A Red Booby could raise some local smiles, not only amongst the fish. But I think Mr Roper-Evans could do worse than to take a Blue Doctor and vast supplies of Medicine Fly.

Happy fishing,
WILLIAM SHIELDS,
Primrose Hill, Draycot,
Nr Rugby, Warwickshire.

Beaten tracks

From the Chief Archivist of the City of Westminster

Sir, May I correct Mr Brian Salt (letter, June 4). Five (not four) streets south of The Strand were named after George (not John) Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham (1628-87). George Street (now York Buildings), Villiers Street, Duke Street (now part of John Adam Street), Of Alley and Buckingham Street were all built on the site of York House. Of Alley, which first appeared in the ratebooks in 1677, became York Place in about 1854.

There were also four streets named after the Adam brothers: John, Robert, James and William — but William Street and James Street are now Durham House Street.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET SWARBRICK,
Chief Archivist,
City of Westminster,
Victoria Library,
160 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,
June 4.

From Mr R. T. Baxter

Sir, I have no doubts. If my wife speaks in a kindly tone of voice my children and I know for certain that she is talking to the cats.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BAXTER,
112 Thurleigh Road, SW12,
June 3.

From Mr Peter Viggers, MP for

Gosport (Conservative)

Sir, Some years ago British Airways and Air France operated identical concessions, whereby the purchaser of a first-class return ticket received another ticket free. British Airways called it "The Spouse Concession". Air France offered "Le Vol d'Amour".

Yours faithfully,
PETER VIGGERS,
House of Commons,
May 26.

Weekend Money letters, page 26

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LORENZO TANADA

turned silks and satins, and silver tissue waistcoats, very richly embroidered in silver and stones, and coloured silks in curious devices and bouquets of flowers. The breeches were covered with wingles.

Earl Wingham's. A noise colour, white striped and spotted silk coat and breeches, and white silk waistcoat, very beautifully embroidered with silver and stones and net work, under which run a pink silk border as a foil.

REMARKS.

Ladies' Dresses.—The caps were in general adapted to suit the dresses. They were chiefly ornamental with foil flowers, or white feathers, curled, and very light, and trimmed with blond. Long earrings and necklaces were much worn. The prevailing colour was yellow.

Gentlemen's Dresses.—Next to the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Bedford was by far the most elegant gentleman at Court. His suit cost 500 guineas. The dresses were mostly dark coloured striped silk cloth coats lined with coloured silks, the edges appearing; with seams of very rich cut steel buttons. The hair-dress was dressed in curls. As for Ladies who had a princely fortune, even the scowling countesses he will have nothing more to do with his suit, for it is past recovery.



UK stance assures third term for Delors

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN OSLO

JACQUES Delors seems assured of reappointment as president of the European Commission unopposed by Britain when European Community leaders meet in Lisbon at the end of this month — despite the anxiety that has seized the EC since Danish voters rejected the Maastricht treaty.

Lamont calls for curb on EC centrists

Continued from page 1
warned: "The Commission continues to use existing treaties in an attempt to foist unacceptable laws on the United Kingdom." He criticised efforts by Christiane Scrivener, the tax commissioner, to raise the question of Britain's zero value-added tax rates, saying: "It is simply no use commissioners becoming impatient because countries are rightly protective of their own powers to set tax rates."

The new Europe-wide scepticism about a centralised, Community was reflected yesterday when in talks with Mr Major in Bonn, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, accepted British plans to speed up enlargement of the EC by the earliest possible admission of EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries.

been one of the few ministers inclined to blame him for contributing to the Danish vote against the plan for political and monetary union. Reports that M. Delors was planning changes to the EC which would reduce the influence of small states when new members joined were gleefully seized on by anti-Maastricht campaigners in Denmark. Mr Ellemann-Jensen said that he hoped M. Delors' tenure in Brussels would be renewed. "He is a visionary European," he said.

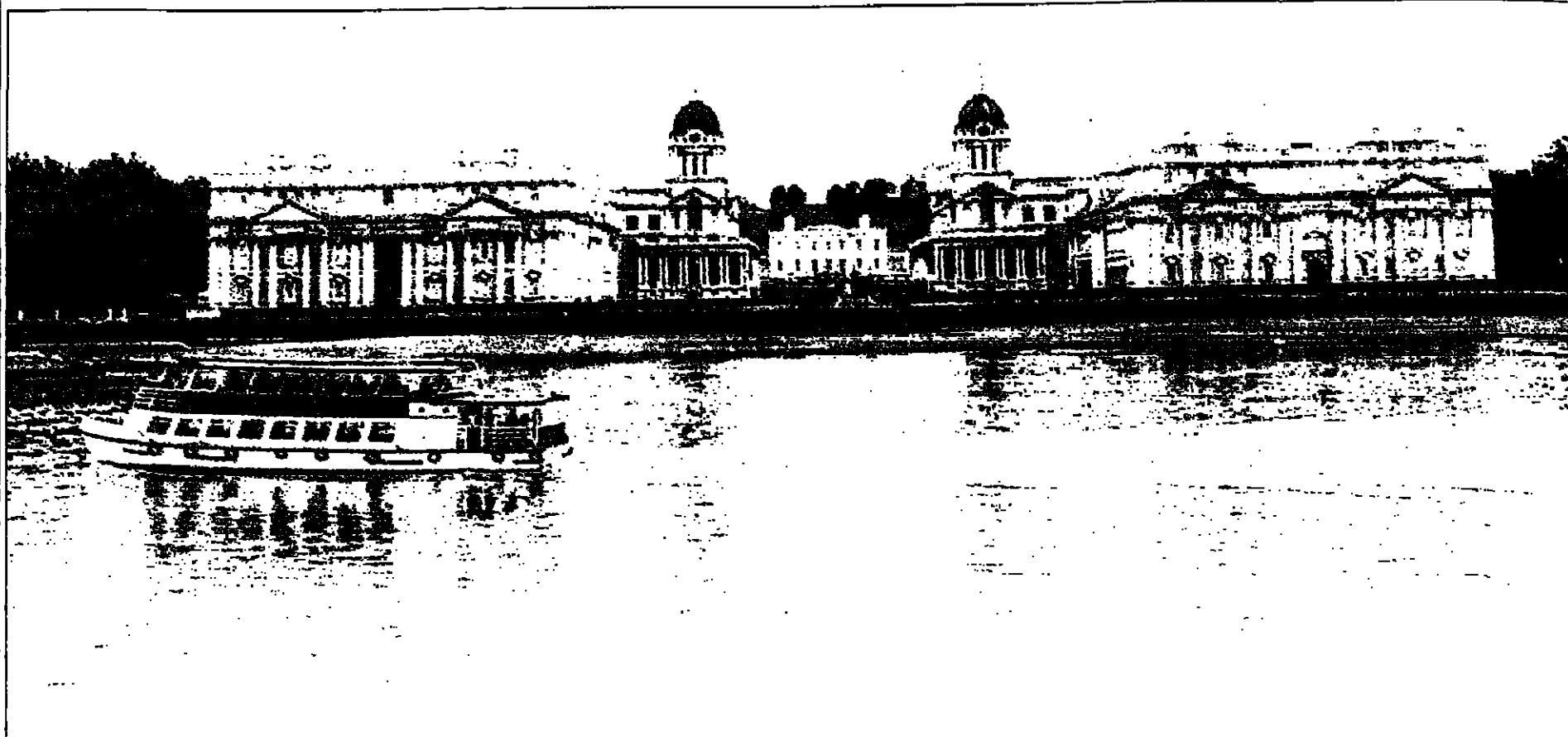
That panegyric should be enough to seal a unanimous decision by the EC leaders at Lisbon in three weeks' time that M. Delors should stay in Brussels for another two years. A Delors aide was confident yesterday that no state would block a third term. The decision will nevertheless be a weird paradox. At the height of European federalism's crisis of confidence, the 12 governments rally round the man who regularly chastises them.

The Danish minister's defence of the man who symbolises European federalism provides a key to the mystery of why the British government — to Douglas Hurd's evident discomfort — is locked into supporting M. Delors for a third term. Any move against M. Delors by Britain could only be begun with the help of the Danes and the Dutch.

John Major is also informally bound by an assurance he delivered to Chancellor Kohl of Germany at the Maastricht summit last December that Britain would not veto the renewal of M. Delors' appointment.

Major's hope, page 13
Letters, page 15

Thames view to be restored to its Canaletto glory



Past and present: Above, the view from the Isle of Dogs to Greenwich today, and below, the panorama captured by Canaletto in his oil painting 200 years ago

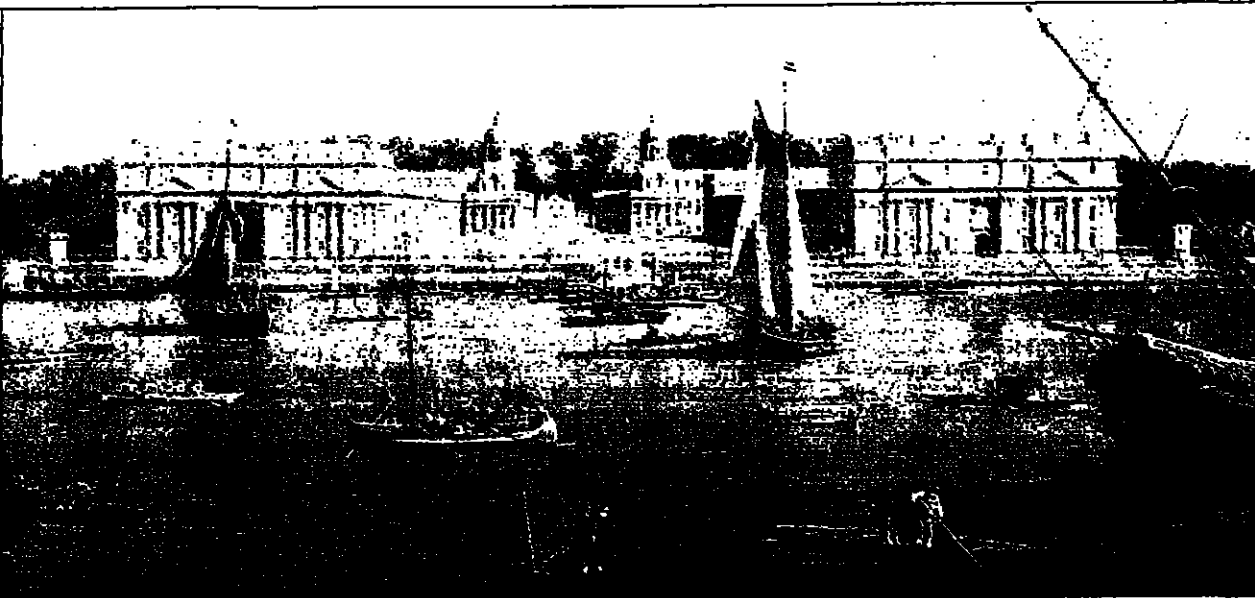
By DOUGLAS BROOM

A VIEW of Greenwich which inspired Canaletto is to be restored in a project to improve seven miles of the south bank of the Thames from Deptford Creek to Thamesmead.

Workers at Canary Wharf and other buildings on the Isle of Dogs, east London, will be able to share the panorama captured by Canaletto 200 years before tower blocks came to dominate the view northwards from Inigo Jones' Queen's House.

Looking south from Island Gardens, as Canaletto did, many of the landmarks remain recognisable but modern eyesores and derelict sites have marred the view. Canaletto was deliberately wrong on one detail, however: he painted Queen's House much smaller than it really was simply because he loathed the building.

The Greenwich Waterfront Development Partnership,



launched yesterday by Greenwich council, local businesses, landowners and community groups wants to return the riverside to its

golden age. By promoting sympathetic new developments the agency intends to restore not only Canaletto's but other classical views

across the Thames downstream from Limehouse Reach. New buildings will have to comply with a strict design code and English

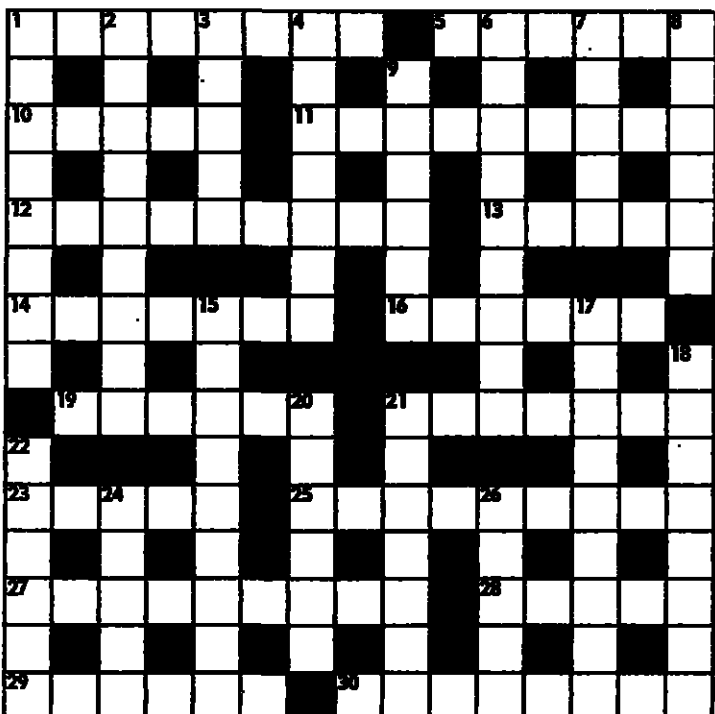
Heritage is to carry out a conservation study of the area, including a survey of all the historic buildings. Philip Davies of English Heritage

said the study would include Queen's House, Wren's Royal Naval College and Hawksmoor's Church of St Alfege.

"The old town centre represents a remarkable survival of Georgian and Victorian London," he said. "In the last decade or so heavy traffic, the economic decline of the riverside area and pressures from tourism have all combined to take their toll. The aim of the study is to ensure that this unparalleled heritage of buildings and their settings is restored to the highest standards so that Greenwich can resume its rightful place as one of the capital's most cherished architectural jewels."

The agency will implement the council's award-winning Greenwich Waterfront Strategy, published last year. Its remit will run from Woolwich Arsenal, with its collection of listed buildings thought to be by Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor, to the Thames Barrier.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,938



By Philip Howard

SACCADEIC
a. Attracted to sugar
b. Twitching and jerky
c. Carrying a bag
SOUS-ENTENDU
a. An implication
b. A pig in clover
c. A cornet
SUBDOLOUS
a. Rather shy
b. An undercurrent
c. Paying by subscription
CONSCARNATION
a. Becoming flesh
b. The act of packing
c. Complaining sarcastically

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C. London (within N & S Circs)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
West Surrey Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & Dorset	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Bedfordshire, Essex	706
Northampton, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & South Wales	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire & Humberside	712
Dyfed & Powys	713
Gwynedd & Clwyd	714
N. W. England	715
W. S. Wales & Wales	716
N. E. England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
S. W. Scotland	719
W. Central Scotland	720
Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders	721
E. Central Scotland	722
Grampian & E. Highlands	723
N. W. Scotland	724
Galloway, Orkney & Shetland	725
N. Ireland	726

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

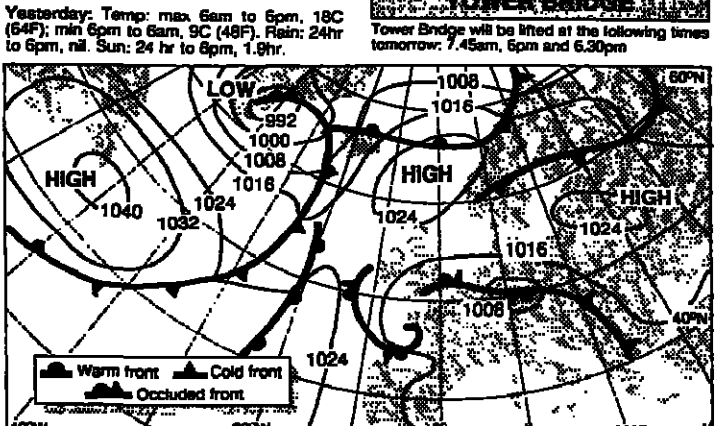
The winners of last Saturday's competition are: K M Gough, Little East, Rodmill, Lewes, East Sussex; S K J Bone, Hampton Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex; A K Black, Oakleigh Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex; J A Morgan, Rhwydian, Caernarfon, Wales; Keith Anderson, Stockbridge, Stourhead, nr Blackburn, Lancashire.

Today's pollen count forecast is **MODERATE SELDANE**. A major advance in hayfever treatment.

The southern half of England will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain but turning brighter during the morning. Along the east coast it will remain generally dull with some rain or drizzle. The best of the sunshine will be in the west of Scotland and northwest England, where there will also be the highest temperatures. Winds fresh or strong at times along the east coast. Outlook: unsettled with showers or rain in the South, brighter in northwestern areas.

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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16	14	14	16	14	14
17	15	15	17	15	15
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Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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29	27	27	29	27	27
30	28	28	30	28	28



Information supplied by Met Office

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SATURDAY JUNE 6 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Profile

Peter Jansen admits he is not a normal, well balanced person, but maintains he needs to be "slightly twisted" in order to carry out his duties as chief executive of M&C-Caradon. He says his parents' divorce caused him to become a university dropout, but gave him the determination to stick with his own marriage. Page 21

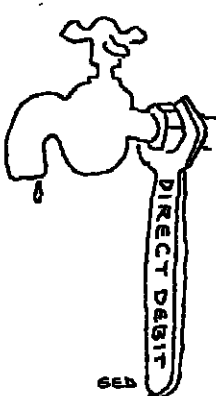


Spread effect

Investors in unit trusts may suffer a fall in the value of holdings, even in a rising market, because of the effect of the 5 per cent "spread" in price, the investment ombudsman warns. Page 25

On the warpath

Firms who make markets in second-hand endowment plans are side-stepping rules governing profit projections. Fimbria, the intermediaries' regulatory authority, is on the warpath. Page 24



Letters Page 26

Funds of life

People buying their first home should not mortgage themselves up to the hilt. Alison Hunter, a first-time buyer, says there must be leeway for rate rises, falling property values and changes in personal circumstances. The scarcity of rental accommodation and the high price of motor insurance are other headaches facing young people, who are the subject of the first of a five-part series on the way people's financial priorities change as they get older. Page 23



Euro boost

European investment benefits are improving, thanks to economic recovery, continuing integration and the opening of eastern Europe. Two new trusts hope to reap the rewards. Page 25

Sid unwelcome

The flotation of a second tranche of Wellcome shares is not aimed at ordinary privatisation investors. It is more suitable for stockbrokers' more traditional private clients. Page 24



Secondhand trade

The sale of second-hand endowment policies is providing Britain with a valuable export trade to Germany, Sweden, Israel, Hong Kong and the Middle East. Page 24

Tax losses tempt bids for Canary Wharf

BY ANGELA MACKAY
TAX losses incurred by Olympia & York's Canary Wharf project are proving a big attraction for the half dozen investors interested in buying the £1.5 billion Docklands scheme from administrators.

The tax losses, of capital allowances likely to exceed £150 million, are a draw for companies such as Hanson, which uses elaborate tax engineering to maximise profits.

A spokesman for Hanson said talks were taking place. The group is also considering buying Canary Wharf in a joint venture with Bechtel, one of the world's biggest construction companies.

P&O has also been mentioned as a possible bidder.

Canary Wharf is 14 per cent let and generates rent of £10 million. The administrators said they had frozen all incentive payments to tenants relating to their old leases and stopped all construction work on fitting out of offices.

Texaco, which has reserved the best part of two buildings on Western Circus, said it was "watching developments closely" but was still on target to move in August.

One week into their work, the administrators said they would appoint property agents and valuers early next week.

Ernst & Young has met Lord Wakeham, leader of the House of Lords, who advised that it negotiate directly with individual government departments about relocation to Docklands by the end of 1993. Lord Wakeham said the government was adamant that either O&Y or a buyer of Canary Wharf honour the agreement to pay £400 million towards a Jubilee Line extension.

Key syndicates suffer £948m deficit

Lloyd's names fear even higher losses

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

LLOYD'S names fear that their losses from syndicates involved in the excess-of-loss reinsurance spiral will be even more disastrous than the previous worst-case projections suggested.

With most of the results for the 1989 year of account now in, the 15 syndicates at the heart of the spiral are estimated to have notched up total losses of £948 million, about half the expected total market loss for the year.

The syndicates provided reinsurance for other syndicates and have had to pick up the bill for a string of catastrophe losses such as the Piper Alpha oil platform disaster in 1988. However, the flow of claims appears to have accelerated over the past year, and forecasts for the eventual loss are being increased.

About 2,000 names, including Susan Hampshire, the actress, the estate of the late Robert Maxwell, and Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian arms dealer, earlier this week received the results for their underwriting on the two Feltrim LMX syndicates, 540 and 847. These showed deteriorations of 74 per cent on 540 and 161 per cent on 847 for the 1989 year of account, with the total losses for the year now at 305 per cent and 366 per cent respectively. This means that the Feltrim losses stood at £390 million at the 1991 year-end, already close to the previous worst case projections.

Further deterioration is expected and the worst-case loss has been increased from £400 million to £440 million. The Feltrim syndicates are now under the management of AUA7, a special purpose company set up by Lloyd's.

Colin Hook, the chairman of the Feltrim Names Association, said: "I find it regrettable that AUA7 has taken so long to publish such a massive deterioration." Feltrim names were last advised on the size of their losses in April last year. "I don't understand how a 160 per cent deterioration could have remained unknown for 14 months," Mr Hook added. The losses have come as a particular shock because Feltrim names had, if anything, expected an improvement in the situation after the cancellation of a recent cash call.

The Feltrim losses are the subject of an independent enquiry being carried out by a committee headed by Sir Patrick Neill, QC. This is expected to report this month. The publication of the final and largest set of LMX spiral syndicate results, those of three Gooda Walker syndicates, have been delayed for a further week. The Feltrim figures suggest that these may also show a sharp deterioration compared with previous expectations. The total losses for these syndicates for the 1987 to 1990 period are thought likely to exceed £1 billion.

Some of the names on the spiral syndicates have reacted angrily to news of Lloyd's scheme to raise £500 million from the membership to strengthen its financial security. Lloyd's announced on Thursday that each name will next month be charged an average of £20,000 a head as a contribution to the central fund. This represents a levy of 1.66 per cent on their underwriting capacity for each of the 1990, 1991 and 1992 years of account.

The funds will be drawn from names' funds held at Lloyd's and will be used to boost the central fund to £1 billion. However, many suffering names believe that Lloyd's is unfair to pass the entire cost of beefing up the security of the market on to the membership.

One name described the levy plan as "about the most cynical gesture the council could have made". Charles Sturge, the joint editor of the *Chatet Directory of Lloyd's of London 1992* and also a name, said of the levy: "I don't think the names will wear it."

The levy has been timed to ensure that Lloyd's has no problems when it reports to the trade department on its solvency in September. Lloyd's is likely to face a shortfall of several hundred millions of pounds this summer because of names being unable or unwilling to pay losses. The market is expected to report a loss of £2 billion for 1989, when the results for that year are announced this month. Lloyd's is also looking at the feasibility of a scheme to limit the losses of the names worst hit by the 1988, 1989 and 1990 losses.

Alfred Doll-Steinberg, the chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group of names, said: "To announce the levy before the rescue plan is, from a PR point of view, another Lloyd's disaster."

The levy was welcomed by Mark Farrer, the chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members. He said: "If Lloyd's faced possible solvency difficulties, then they were correct to make absolutely sure that Lloyd's will pass solvency and face no threat to its continuing business."

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BP to cut 350 jobs in Scotland by closing former Britoil office

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Petroleum is to close the former Britoil headquarters in Glasgow, with the loss of up to 350 jobs, in a move that sparked immediate protest from the Scottish nationalist lobby.

The Glasgow office of BP Exploration will be closed within the next 12 to 18 months, the company said, and would involve the transfer of 300 of the 650 jobs to Aberdeen, where it already employs a workforce of 3,500. Most of the rest will be made redundant.

The decision was slammed by John Swinney, the Scottish National Party's energy spokesman, who described it

as a "complete betrayal" of promises given to the Scottish people by BP.

At the time of its £2.27 billion acquisition of Britoil in 1988, BP said it would make Glasgow the business headquarters of its combined British oil and gas exploration and production interests, with Aberdeen continuing as operations headquarters.

BP is hurt by suggestions that it has reneged on any promises. The group employs 8,500 staff in Scotland, of which 5,000, before the cuts, are with BP Exploration. This compares with 5,500 Britoil staff prior to the bid.

John Browne, BP Exploration chief executive officer, said the decision was a "natural move which will bring together in one place all the skills needed for the next phase of North Sea development and secure our future."

Analysis suggested that the Glasgow closure could involve a gross saving of £50 million a year. However, there would be a £25 million, one-off exceptional write-off. BP Oil Co is still considering withdrawing from branded petrol marketing in California and southeast Florida. Legal requirements call for a six-month advance notification of such a withdrawal.

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Buy now, pay later . . . and later

BY RODNEY HOBSON

ONLY 3 per cent of firms receive payments on time and the position is getting worse, according to Trade Indemnity, the independent credit insurance group. On average, payments are received 27 days late. About a quarter of all bills are settled more than 30 days after the stipulated date.

The figures are contained in a survey of financial trends conducted in March. Trade Indemnity intends to conduct similar surveys every quarter.

The results are supported by a survey of 1,900 managing directors by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company. Tony Bushnell, director for risk management sales, says: "Nine out of ten managing



Brand: "vicious circle" directors have seen no improvement in payment habits over the past year despite government attempts to encourage prompt payment."

says: "A knock-on effect of this problem is that these companies kept waiting for payment by their customers are passing the burden on to their own suppliers. The resulting vicious circle of delays has a major impact on cash flow for all companies but it is the smaller businesses that are suffering most."

The plight of small businesses, which are often at the mercy of slow-paying larger companies, has already led the Confederation of British Industry to launch a code of practice on prompt payments. To date, about 400 CBI members have signed the code.

The Trade Indemnity survey covered nearly 1,000 companies with turnover ranging from less than £1 million to more than £50 million. Nearly half the com-

panies had more than £50,000 outstanding for at least a month while some companies with turnover of less than £1 million had long outstanding debts of more than £100,000.

The construction and engineering industries were hit particularly badly with the average bill paid 31 days late.

Trade Indemnity says most companies are tightening up on credit management, mainly by making increased use of credit information from banks and reference agencies. They are also resorting more frequently to debt collection agencies.

Dun & Bradstreet says seven out of ten managing directors of British companies want legislation to enforce a statutory right to interest on late payments.

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Tebbit and DTI fail to stop suit by Lonrho

BY OUR CITY STAFF

LONRHO, the international trading group, can sue Norman Tebbit, the former Trade Secretary, and the Department of Trade and Industry for alleged negligence over the 1985 takeover battle for the House of Fraser stores group.

Three judges unanimously dismissed a bid by Mr Tebbit and the DTI to have the action "struck out" on the grounds that it was "doomed to fail."

Lord Justice Dillon, sitting with Lord Justice Stocker and Sir Michael Kerr, said Lonrho—which alleges it was wrongly locked out of the battle for Fraser, resulting in its acquisition by the Al-Fayed brothers—had an arguable, though "difficult", case, which should be allowed to proceed to trial.

Mr Tebbit and the DTI were refused leave to appeal to the Lords and ordered to pay Lonrho's legal costs, estimated at more than £50,000.

Lonrho claims that, at the time of the takeover, Mr Tebbit and the DTI failed in their duty under private law to release the company from an undertaking that limited it to a 30 per cent holding in Fraser. The undertaking had been imposed during an earlier Lonrho takeover attempt that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission felt might operate against the public interest.

In February 1985, the MMC cleared the way for Lonrho to bid for Fraser, but it was not released from its undertaking until March, by which time the Al-Fayeds had already acquired control.

Lonrho claims that, because of the "dilatation" of Mr Tebbit and the DTI, it lost the chance of making a bid that might have proved extremely profitable.



Prepared for the worst: Susan Hampshire, the actress and Lloyd's name

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BY MARTIN WALLER

Professor Littlechild said that if the information provided by the generators indicated anti-competitive behaviour, he had the power under the law to act as necessary. Professor Littlechild's ruling was welcomed by the "Major Energy Users' Council, which has campaigned for cheaper energy prices. "This should help to provide a more competitive market and a more genuine pool spot market, less susceptible to manipulation," it said.

BY COLIN CAMPBELL



Mr Roberts told shareholders Dowty has carried out important reorganisation

An operating margin of 9.7 per cent achieved against the background of an adverse

technology division eased from £191.5 million to £172.1 million. The division ran up a £4.1 million loss

Tempos, page 21

BY OUR CITY STAFF

The airport's construction will be funded by the consor-

between the Peloponnese and central Greece and an Athens motorway.

the recession began in 1990, America's unemployment rate was 5.2 per cent.

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

His and Dr Issing's comments helped the mark to

time on Thursday, enabling it to override the upper house on a simple majority.

VESTEL Elektronik Sanayi ve Ticaret, the Turkish electronics unit of **Poly Peck International**, plans a rights and bonus issue to increase its share capital by 45 per cent. If approval is given by Turkey's Capital Markets Board, Vestel will issue 81 billion lira (£6.5 million) of shares in the rights issue and 40.5 billion lira of bonuses. The company reported a 13 per cent decline in first-quarter profits to 9.6 billion lira this year. Poly Peck administrators plan to sell a 25 per cent stake in Vestel to a foreign company.

MAJOR CHANGES

manance will help to stave off T1 Group, which has bid £525 million.

□ **WALL STREET:** Blue chips fell at midday as investors sold shares that are especially sensitive to an economic recovery after the disappointing May employment report and money supply figures. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 18.73 points to 3,381.

MICHAEL CLARK

[illegible]

BUSINESS PROFILE: Peter Jansen

Still just a Maastricht man at heart

Carol Leonard goes right to the soul of the man who guides the fortunes of the MB-Caradon group

Almost all leading businessmen have obsessive personalities, according to Peter Jansen, the chief executive of MB-Caradon, the £1.4 billion group once known as Metal Box — and he is, he admits, no exception.

"You simply do not end up in a job like this if you are a well balanced, normal individual," he says. "I don't believe you can do this sort of job unless you have something lacking. Some of the things you have to do, like making people redundant, you just cannot square completely. I think you have to be slightly twisted to do these things."

It is a statement, nevertheless, that will astonish many of those who claim to have known Peter Jansen for years. For Jansen is, if the truth be known, everything that he pretends not to be. That pretence is so convincing that even those individuals who have known him for 20 years or more, who have worked alongside him on a daily basis, and who are intelligent, successful professionals in their own right, have, in a way, been fooled.

Jansen laughs when I tell him of the reputation he has with even his closest colleagues. Anthony Hitchens, MB-Caradon's chairman and acknowledged as the other half of Jansen's corporate double act for the past 14 years, dismisses his reserve as "Dutch correctness", and says he is a man who gets very upset if he thinks are not done correctly and denies that he has any temper. "He is always very controlled," says Hitchens. Jansen says: "He and I are a couple."

Hitchens concedes that Jansen is warm "underneath" but more readily describes him as "very tough, very intelligent, with clear, logical thought processes" and a large — 6ft 1ins — dark appearance that can make him seem awesome. Hitchens says: "He is ruthless, he will not tolerate second rate

leadership. And yes, I do mean ruthless." Jansen smiles the fabled smile of a person who has been allowed to eavesdrop on a conversation about himself. "Now, isn't that funny," he says. "You see, that's how it must appear to Anthony." Yet Hitchens is not a man easily fooled. Even Jansen says of him: "He knows how to handle me, how to get the best out of me. I don't want to know how he does it, all I know is it works."

His association with Hitchens, whom he first met at Redland, and their successful track record when working together, explains Jansen's fervent belief in the effectiveness of strong working relationships. "I think it works better that way. In any group everybody has his own interests and it can be difficult to actually figure out what they are. Whereas I think I know where he's coming from, he knows where I'm coming from. I can ring him any time, he is always there. Maybe it's understanding

'I try to control it, but sometimes when no one is looking, I throw a few things against the wall'

you do need other people around you that you trust." Jansen describes himself as something of a loner. "I don't think I was ever one of the lads, there are times when I need to be on my own, to think." But he claims similar relationships with two other MB-Caradon directors, also ex-Redland, Daniel Cohen and Tim Walker. "I simply couldn't have done it without them," he says. "I would have gone off the rails. They tell me when I've gone too far. They stop me making mistakes of excess. I can become fanatical."

Jansen's gratitude to them is genuine. For it is the influence that they exert over him, consciously or not, that has transformed him into the tough, controlled, awesome figure that Hitchens so accurately describes. But while Hitchens' description is correct, remove those externally applied controls and an entirely different creature would evolve — shy, emotional and with



Warm underneath — but ruthless when necessary: Peter Jansen relaxes at home

an explosive temper. "I try to control it but sometimes, when no one is looking, I throw things at the wall," Jansen says. He has been known to lose control when confronted with *petit fonctionnaires*. "I do what comes naturally. I shout, I may swear, I try to think of things to say that are really hurtful and then I regret it."

The only facet of Hitchens' description with which Jansen will nod in agreement is that he does get very upset if things are not done correctly. He is also aware of the rather daunting image he projects. "Some people do find me

a bit forbidding and so I have developed a technique to try and introduce some humour. That can confuse people."

One can imagine their confusion. For Jansen admits that, at heart, he regards business as a wholly serious matter. He speaks about it with the zealotry of a convert. "I find a lot of things amusing," he says. He is a fan of Tommy Cooper, Jack Benny and Bob Hope. "But I don't think anything about business is funny. The fact is I'm paid to make sure this business is a success, for the shareholders and the people in it

and that is a big responsibility. You cannot escape that and therefore you are not free to follow your own indulgences" — and so yes, I do think you have a duty to do things in a certain way." This is the Dutch Calvinist coming out.

Whatever the reasoning behind Jansen's business approach, it has been undeniably successful. MB-Caradon has just become a constituent of the FT-SE 100 Index and the value of Jansen's own stake in Caradon demonstrates what he has achieved for its shareholders. His shareholding in the Twyford bathrooms-to-Mira group multi-

plied from £150,000 in 1986 — "I increased the mortgage on my house from £75,000 to £225,000. It was every penny that we had" — to £16 million after Metal Box launched its bid for Caradon in 1988.

A condition of that bid was that Jansen would become group chief executive. Jansen, who still has £8 million invested in the business, has come a long way. Home is now an eight-bedroom house in Surrey and he owns a Bentley, a Mercedes sports, a Golf GTI, a 1960 Daimler plus a company Granada. "I'm a car nut, but I'm against company cars. I think senior executives in this country are underpaid and over-perked. It would be much cleaner to pay a decent salary and let them buy their own cars."

He was born in Amsterdam in 1940, the eldest of two children. His parents emigrated to South Africa when he was nine.

His father started a successful clothing business and although he and Jansen's mother eventually divorced — "They began divorcing when I was 12 and finished when I was 18" — the family lived a "cosy" existence, socialising with the English rather than the Africans community.

Jansen, unable to speak English when he arrived, was educated at a good local school, but was once nearly expelled. "I went through a period of wildness as a reaction to my parents' divorce, I was attention seeking, I guess."

He then went to Cape Town university where he read civil engineering, but left in the third and final year. "I had a great time playing rugby and hockey but I just couldn't get down to the work. It was a small rebellion. My father and I had a falling out over it, for a couple of years, which was very painful. I went to work to earn some money to go back and read law but I got sucked into a career. It's been one of my biggest regrets that I didn't go back."

That career began in the Paris office of Pfizer, the pharmaceutical company which is where Jansen met his French wife, Francoise, the mother of his three sons, Tony, 28, Philip, 25 and Christopher, 21. He recalls "a very sensitive

young French person being thrown together with this rough Dutchman, roughed up in South Africa. It was tough on her. I was a bit like a wild man really. I was so committed to work. But we kept it together and over time it settled down."

Jansen's determination to make his marriage a success was, he says, fuelled by a desire to demonstrate to his father that he could make it succeed. His determination to better his parents' marital record, belies a keen interest in women. He could not, he says work with a secretary he found sexually attractive. Jansen, in fact, is interested in and likes most people. He is generous, giving anonymously to several causes, and is an unexpectedly sensitive and emotional man.

Despite the confidence that comes with success Jansen, once painfully shy, still avoids situations where he will meet new people. Last year, when this interview was first scheduled, he cancelled it because it was to have been conducted by another journalist from *The Times*. "I'd never met her before — I couldn't have done it. I wouldn't have been myself. It might have been a disaster."

He does not like to encounter the unexpected. He goes to great lengths to think everything through before, and after, it happens. He admits to being a worrier, to occasional sleepless nights, and he tells me how he "rehearsed" for this interview for weeks beforehand. He is interested in horoscopes and hand writing analysis and he insists new recruits at MB-Caradon undergo psychometric testing.

With age he is, he says, becoming more emotional and more Dutch. "I guess you return to your roots. I've just bought a flat in Maastricht. I love England, but I'd like to die there."

As we part I ask one last question. Does he ever drink? "Oh yes, lots," he replies with enthusiasm. "Lost," I ask. "Well," he says. "It's all part of my obsessive personality. Every now and again I drink far too much."

He smiles helplessly, his honesty is endearing, and he then knows that he has grown on me too.

A fan of Bob Hope, he finds a lot of things amusing, but doesn't think anything about business is funny

An each-way win for Midland

LLOYDS' unexpected withdrawal leaves Midland's shareholders with two choices. They must either accept the final 480p a share offer from HSBC, the holding company of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, or sell in the market. (The increase in HSBC's bid earlier this week has ruled out independence.) Each has its attractions.

Midland's shares fell 21p yesterday to 446p as the arbitrageurs caught a cold. Despite this, the price has then doubled from its low point of 205p last year. Readers who followed Tempus recommendations last August and in February have made a handsome gain. They may choose to switch into other recovery plays in the banking sector, particularly National Westminster.

Otherwise, they should consider the attractions of HSBC's offer, which even Lloyds Bank said yesterday is

a full one. The terms of 120 HSBC shares and £65 in cash or bonds for every 100 Midland shares represents an 86 per cent increase on the value of Midland shares before the merger talks were announced, and a 415 per cent increase in income.

HSBC is also offering Midland shareholders a substantial premium to net assets. The net worth of the bond and share combination is 349p a share, a rise of 17 per cent from Midland's current net asset value of 299p.

The enlarged HSBC should offer attractive growth prospects. The reduction of losses in Australia and Marine Midland in America, coupled with the expected recovery in Midland, should boost group pre-tax profits from £1.25 billion this year to £1.6 billion next. The prospective p/e ratio is then less than 11. Worth considering, despite fears about the volatility

of HSBC's share price on the Hong Kong stock market.

Dowty/TI

BY SUNSET on Wednesday, Dowty Group should be in TI's lap. Before the 1pm acceptance deadline, Dowty shareholders need only ask: where has Dowty gone over the past five years, and where is it going over the next five?

TI's 8-for-15 paper offer, with a cash alternative of 174.67p, looks generous even after Dowty's publication yesterday of "surprise" 1992 results showing a pre-tax profit of £32.7 million, equivalent to net earnings of 8.2p a share. The surprise was the extent by which they exceeded earlier downbeat City forecasts that only about £20 million pre-tax was likely, after 1991's outcome of £60.6 million, and that they comfortably exceeded the not less than £29 million estimate put

out in Dowty's defence.

Dowty's profits should recover in 1993; analysts are variously forecasting anywhere between £40 million and £50 million. The debate turns on whether such a rate of increase is sustainable. The upper profits estimate would still not see Dowty back to 1987 profit levels, when pre-tax profits were £55.7 million.

Changes in market capitalisation over the past five years, with TI up from £335 million to £1.15 billion and Dowty down from £479 million to £396 million by this April, speak for themselves.

TI sprang into the bidding on April 23 like a hare, with an offer that it did not take too long to declare final. This week, TI bought 10 per cent of its target's shares in the market. Dowty, by contrast, has been like a tortoise, but there seems little reason to believe that the old fable will prove true in this battle.

WEEK ENDING Martin Waller

Vikings and Danes hold Europe ransom

I THINK I can furnish an explanation. Denmark, as any seasoned traveller will tell you, is a small, pretty country, north of Germany, which is almost entirely inhabited by drunken Swedes. Until recently, you needed a prescription from three doctors and an act of Parliament to order a half of lager in Sweden. Even now, in today's more relaxed regime, Swedes looking for some serious drinking slip across to Copenhagen or hop on one of the many luxurious ferries crossing the Kattegat.

No one, in all honesty, can tell one Scandinavian from another. Those 25,000 Danes who voted against Maastricht are therefore clearly a terrible case of mistaken identity.

The last time the Swedes caused the Germans such an upset was in the time of Gustav II Adolfus. Germany has come on a little since then, and the Germans have now cemented their control of the beaches of Europe with the purchase of Thomas Cook from the Midland Bank. Previously you had to fight them for your share of

the beach umbrella — now they will make you pay them for the privilege first.

Meteorologists pondering the fate of the Earth at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro have uncovered an extraordinary correlation. Changing weather and widespread drought are caused by executive share options granted to the men who run the water industry in England and Wales, not by increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere or tidal patterns in the Pacific. Nothing else can explain their elevation into this week's *hite* figures.

Liechtenstein is a rich, mountainous land the size and shape of a crumpled pocket handkerchief discarded by a careless traveller crossing the border between Switzerland and Austria. Miracles are clearly taking place there beyond the scope of even this column to unravel. The ghost of Robert Maxwell still walks the panelled halls of Vaduz bankers, distributing largesse to his nearest and dearest, if the testimony of the accountants



"Just playing safe with the regulator, sir"

scouring his crashed empire is to be believed. Maxwell may not have taken it with him, but the old crook has apparently stashed much of it away beyond the reach of his creditors and his impoverished pensioners.

When Maxwell disappeared over the side of the Lady Ghislaine his liabilities well exceeded his assets, a position shared by a growing band of people. A study has shown that anything up to 2 million people owe more on

their mortgages than their homes are worth.

A fair few thousand of those are going to find themselves homeless and obliged to join the new age travellers unless something is done. The government is beating the building societies about the head with all available sticks, but to no avail.

Meanwhile, Mr Major is also still pondering the future of Canary Wharf. In the Old South, recalcitrant slaves were shipped downriver to less healthy climates; in these times it falls to the civil servants, which is progress of a kind.

It falls to me to suggest a modest proposal. Decant the travellers and the homeless into the acres of empty office space still cluttering up the land. £10 a sq ft seems a fair price to solve the housing problem and pacify those rural dwellers until recently the reluctant hosts to the hippy caravans. Fantastic, I know, but we live in a strange world, where the ambitions of Attila and Charlemagne, Napoleon and Hitler can be frustrated by a few thousand drunken Swedes.

DOWTY SHAREHOLDERS

TI's FINAL* OFFERS FOR DOWTY CLOSE IN 4 DAYS

ACCEPTANCES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1.00PM WEDNESDAY, 10TH JUNE*



TI GROUP

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING THE FORM OF ACCEPTANCE CALL 071 489 3059 BETWEEN 9.00AM AND 5.30PM

The directors of TI Group plc accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and, to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts. This advertisement has been approved by Baring Brothers & Co. Limited, a member of the SFA, for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986. The offers referred to in this advertisement are not being made directly or indirectly in the United States. The new TI ordinary shares have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 and may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in the United States.

*The Offers will close at 1.00pm on Wednesday, 10th June, 1992 unless the Ordinary Offer has by or on that date become or been declared unconditional as to acceptances. The Offers will not otherwise be extended, nor will they be increased, except that TI reserves the right to revise, increase and/or extend the Offers, the Cash Alternatives or any of them in the event of a competitive situation arising or otherwise with the consent of the Panel. If the Ordinary Offer becomes or is declared unconditional as to acceptances on or before Wednesday, 10th June, 1992, the Offers, but not the Cash Alternatives, will remain open for acceptance until at least Wednesday, 24th June, 1992. The Cash Alternatives will remain open for acceptance until 1.00pm, on Wednesday, 10th June, 1992 and, if the Ordinary Offer is then or is capable of being declared unconditional as to acceptances, will not be extended thereafter.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check it against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won money or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gains or Loss
1	Seaton	Transport	
2	Warburg SG	Banking	
3	Sidon Water	Water	
4	LRMS	Electrical	
5	Business Tech	Industrial	
6	Br Bono	Oil & Gas	
7	Br Vita	Food	
8	Unigate	Industries	
9	Tomkins	Textiles	
10	Knowles (J)	Building/Rd	
11	Tunall	Electrical	
12	Chesam (M)	Building/Rd	
13	Lloyd Chen	Drugs/Sys	
14	BT	Electrical	
15	Arden	Electrical	
16	Wessex Water	Water	
17	Asac Br Pors	Transport	
18	Smith (J)	Paper/Print	
19	Lyles (S)	Textiles	
20	DI Data Prc	Electrical	
21	Booth Ind	Industrial	
22	Aviva Prc	Oil & Gas	
23	Canals	Banking	
24	Creda	Chemicals	
25	Yorkshire W	Water	
26	Reckon Colm	Industrial	
27	Goal Pet	Oil & Gas	
28	Ryl Bk Sct	Banking	
29	Balmer (H F)	Breweries	
30	Willow James	Industrial	
31	Transfer Tech	Industrial	
32	CALA	Building/Rd	
33	Admiral	Electrical	
34	Argus Prc	Drugs/Sys	
35	Unilever	Industrial	
36	Cresting	Industrial	
37	Eurochem Prc	Chemicals	
38	James Seng	Industrial	
39	LCW	Industrial	
40	Widnough	Paper/Print	
41	Talman	Electrical	
42	Widnough	Building/Rd	
43	Vaux Group	Breweries	
44	Island Fyres	Food	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £12,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total
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There were no winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition and the prize will be carried over to Monday.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
317	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
318	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
319	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
320	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
321	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
322	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
323	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
324	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
325	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
326	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
327	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
328	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
329	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
330	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
331	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
332	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
333	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
334	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
335	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
336	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
337	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
338	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
339	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
340	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
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384	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
385	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
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398	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
399	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0
400	100	99	1st Alliance	100	1.0	4.5	10.0

BREWERIES

706	44	Producers	544	1	2.5	1.1	124
707	44	Producers	544	1	2.5	1.1	124
708	44	Producers	544	1	2.5	1.1	124
709	44	Producers	544	1	2.5	1.1	124
710	44	Producers	544	1	2.5	1.1	124
711	44	Producers	544	1	2.5	1.1	124
712	50	Alled-Ups	650	1	7	0.1	184
713	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13
714	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13
715	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13
716	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13
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767	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13
768	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13
769	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13
770	49	Rei	509	1	3	0.6	13

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Simplify the regulatory maze



COMMENT

SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

"COULD do better" was the assessment of Richard Youard, the investment ombudsman, in his annual report on the investment industry this week. This verdict could apply equally to the regulatory systems supervised and policed by the Securities and Investments Board and the Office of Fair Trading, as Sir David Walker and Sir Gordon Borrie respectively did not hesitate to point out in their own reports.

Members of the public who invest and save with UK financial institutions are still ill-served by a fragmented system of regulation and redress which allow unscrupulous firms to slip through the regulatory net. Too many regulators still have their fingers in the pie. Sir David Walker is right to point out that this causes fragmentation and uncertainty. Moves towards creating a single regulatory body to supervise and monitor investment firms' contact with the public will go some way to solving this problem but not a moment too soon.

Regulators are still too interest-

ed in guarding their own patch. In some cases this results in unnecessary restrictions on the investigative powers of ombudsmen they have appointed to supervise the activities of their own members. To take one example, the investment ombudsman is still trying to persuade the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation that he should be able to investigate unit trust trustees as well as unit trust managers in his bid to get justice for investors. Trustees of unit trusts have a legal duty to supervise managers, but the ombudsman cannot even start investigating the activities of trustees let alone get redress for investors.

Mr Youard quite properly rejected all arguments that he should not be allowed to take trustees within his scope, but to date trustees are still able to escape his scrutiny. Mr Youard reports

that in several cases this year he has not been able to investigate properly because of this limitation. Regulators are still more interested in the niceties of trust law than the protection the system provides for investors.

The vested interests of major financial institutions have militated against giving consumers better and fuller information, particularly on the costs of buying life assurance and pensions and the charges levied by banks on current account customers. This last has not gone unnoticed by Sir Gordon Borrie, the director gener-

al of fair trading, who warned that the Code of Banking Practice, agreed with a great deal of grumbling from the banks, was not specific enough. He suggested that banks would do the minimum to ensure they complied with the letter of the code. The spirit of the code, which is to be more open and above board with customers, is likely to go by the wayside unless they are forced into it through competitive pressure from their rivals.

Only pressure from members of the public and their representatives, like the Office of Fair

Trading and the ombudsman, can force financial institutions into doing more than the minimum they can get away with. Similar pressure is needed to force regulators into dismantling some of the unnecessary and costly structure that has built up over the years. Any progress that has already been made has come as a result of protest and investigation. Consumers must complain more often and more vociferously so that the system benefits them rather than commercial and regulatory institutions.

Pension delay

EQUAL pensions for men and women in company pension schemes are back in the melting pot. The scuppering of the Maastricht Treaty by the Danes means that the protocol on

pension ages agreed at the same time has been abandoned. Employers heaved a sigh of relief when the protocol indicated that they would only have to pay equal pensions to their male and female employees for service after May 17 1990, the date of the Barber judgment in the European Court. This seemed to put paid to any suggestion that the Barber judgment, which said that men and women should get equal pension treatment, could apply to service as far back as 1973.

Now nothing is certain. Companies will have to wait for several test cases to be heard in the High Court, notably the Coloroll case, to see whether they will have to pay their employees, both retired and existing, more pension.

Although this could mean a nice windfall for some, existing employees, particularly in smaller companies, could find their employer cutting back on scheme benefits because of extra costs backdating pensions. In extreme cases, employers could shut down schemes altogether.

In control with a pocketful of youth and independence

AGES

OF FAMILY FINANCE

IN the first of a five-part series on people's changing financial needs as they grow older, Liz Dolan looks at the period between becoming an adult and turning 30. In the first few years of independent adulthood, most people have neither the cash, nor the inclination, for long-term investments. Savings tend to be in short-term building society or bank deposit accounts, and are used mainly for pleasurable things like clothes, cars and holidays.

The mid-to-late 20s is traditionally the time when the British buy their first home. And that is usually the first time real financial disci-

pline has to be exercised. For people who do not have dependents, it is also the first time they will need to take out life assurance. Financial advisers also recommend permanent health insurance plans and private medical cover to take advantage of cheaper premiums. By definition, however, low premiums mean low risk, and few people in this age group consider the risk outweighs the cost. Pensions are another matter. All three people interviewed on this page have set up private pension plans in response to the government's cash incentive to opt out of Serps.



Good timing: Alan Young and Alison Hunter

Home loan brings couple big saving

CASE STUDY

ALAN Young, 26, and Alison Hunter, 25, have just bought their first flat in Clapham, London. It was a bargain, picked up for £72,000 against an original asking price of £85,000. The generous reduction was made possible because the vendor was able to get a similar reduction on the house he was buying.

Now was a good time to take the plunge into the housing market for a number of reasons, they said. "We were paying almost £600 a month for a rented flat. This one's much better. We can do what we want with it, and it only costs £442. Plus, the market's rock bottom and there's no stamp duty to pay."

The first flat they tried to buy fell through because the surveyor valued it at only £65,000, £5,000 below the offer price and nearly £10,000 below the asking price.

"Before we started looking, we visited our local Woolwich branch and asked what to do. We literally knew nothing." By chance, they subsequently bought the flat through Woolwich Property Services, whose financial adviser recommended a

Halifax mortgage because the first-time buyer discount was better.

They chose an endowment mortgage. Mr Young said: "There was subtle pressure on us to do so, but it wasn't too heavy. They pushed the lump sum at the end. I now think we might have made a mistake because we're tied in for 25 years and the lump sum isn't guaranteed." The 1.9 per cent first-time discount, which ends in July 1993, was only available for endowment mortgages and involved compulsory contents insurance through the Halifax. The couple could have bought a much more expensive property, but "you hear so many horror stories about soaring interest rates and repossession. And going out is pretty important to us. We didn't want to end up sitting in, looking at the walls."

Both have private pension plans after taking up the government's £2,500 to contract out of the state scheme, and intend to increase their contributions over time.

Margins for the unexpected

NO-ONE should contemplate taking on a mortgage without a careful assessment of their financial position, listing all outgoings from car insurance to tolleries. Fiona Price, managing director of Fiona Price & Partners, the financial adviser, said: "There is still nowhere near enough due diligence exercised in this regard. The common fault among lenders, especially in the 1980s, has been to let people borrow as much as possible, with no margins allowed for changes in rates or circumstances."

"It is important to put aside at least two to three months' worth of mortgage repayments or, even better, enough to cover all outgoings. There should also be a margin available for unexpected repairs and increased management charges."

Most lenders now offer generous first-time buyer dis-

BUYING A HOME

counts on mortgages for the first year or so. Three out of four mortgages are endowment-linked, but are not necessarily the best option. First-time buyers who do not have dependents are often better advised to choose the more flexible straight repayment method.

With an endowment mortgage, the interest is repaid each month to the lender. The capital is repaid at the end of the term via the proceeds of an endowment policy. This is a savings plan operated by an insurance company. It includes sufficient insurance to repay the loan if the policyholder dies. There should also be some left over as a tax-free lump sum, but this cannot be guaranteed. In fact, there is

no cast-iron guarantee that enough will have been generated to repay the loan itself.

The main drawback with an endowment mortgage is the low surrender values if homebuyers have to cash in the policy.

Because of the volatile housing market, borrowers should not take a loan for more than 95 per cent of the value of the property. Lenders will normally allow up to three times one salary, or 2.5 times a joint salary. Using an example from Standard Life, the monthly repayment bill for a 21-year-old couple with a £50,000 loan, at an interest rate of 10.65 per cent, would be £440.98 for an endowment mortgage, or £426.45 (including £10.85 for a mortgage protection policy) for a repayment one. Thirty-year-olds in the same position would pay £443.62 and £433.95.

Property to let is hard to find

RENTING

A SERIOUS lack of suitable property for rent is forcing young people to buy homes before they are ready to do so, according to the Halifax Building Society. The proportion of UK households in private rented accommodation is 7 per cent, compared with 40 per cent in Germany and 23 per cent in France.

The reasons for this discrepancy include a lack of suitable accommodation in the UK, the poor quality of properties available, and the lack of security for both landlord and tenant, the society says. It suggests that the situation would be eased if all residential property transactions were exempted from capital gains tax and rental income were freed from income or corporation tax. It also wants to see the government subsidies for homebuyers extended to tenants, possibly at an even more favourable level.

The recent volatility of the housing market has increased the number of people who are unwilling to pay transaction costs for a home that will probably serve only a transitory need. The advantages of renting are numerous. Young people change partners and jobs much more frequently than older ones.

Rented accommodation is best found through letting agencies or local newspapers.

Accidents waiting to happen

TO A motor insurer, an 18-year-old driver is an accident waiting to happen. If he also happens to be male with a powerful sports car, he is the stuff of nightmares. It is not unusual, therefore, for a young driver's annual insurance premium to cost more than the vehicle itself.

According to sample figures supplied by the Automobile Association, an 18-year-old male with a Ford Escort XR3i would have to pay an annual premium of £5,389. His female counterpart pays £3,761. The discrepancy gradually decreases until age 25, when they pay the same premium — which by then would be £692.

All but the most committed would-be Mansells would therefore be better off buying

MOTOR INSURANCE

a more ordinary car. Using the same AA model, the annual premium on a Ford Escort 1.3 is £1,186 for an 18-year-old male; £1,055 for the female. At 21, they pay £566 and £509 respectively; and, at 25, £285 and £247. These figures apply to comprehensive cover. This is an unnecessary luxury for cheaper cars, for which third party, fire and theft insurance can make better financial sense.

Basic cover for the basic Escort would then cost £629 for the 18-year-old male, £558 for the female. At 21, they would pay £215 and

£216 respectively. Most people use insurance brokers to find the cheapest quotes. In theory, each should have access to the same information. In practice, quotes vary and it is best to shop around. If the best quote comes from an unknown insurer, it is best to check with the Association of British Insurers, or with Lloyd's of London in the case of a Lloyd's syndicate, that it is registered with the Department of Trade and Industry. This guarantees protection of 90 per cent of outstanding liabilities if the insurer goes bust.

Claims-handling varies between companies, but there is no ideal way of discovering which have the most lenient claims policies.

CASE STUDY

mortgaged up to the hilt. It soon became obvious that my tastes were higher than my price."

Before finding his current flat, Mr Ward managed the almost impossible feat of being gazumped. His amazed estate agent said he had not seen anything like it for at least two years.

He is convinced his new flat is a bargain, despite the price, not least because the surveyor valued it at just £1,000 below the offer price. He puts this down to looking at 50 or 60 places in a few weeks before making his fi-

nal choice. "Some were awful holes which I suspect belonged to people in the classic mortgage trap. They couldn't drop the price and were trying to sell out way, way too high."

His low rent allowed Mr Ward to save enough for the 5 per cent deposit over three or four years. "I couldn't have done it otherwise." He took out an endowment mortgage on the advice of his leader, Abbey National. He chose Abbey after visiting two mortgage brokers "to compare deals". He says he preferred Abbey's personal touch, which he considers important for a first-time buyer.



Ward: gazumped

Final fling before mortgage

TWO months ago, Chris Ward went on a no-expense-spared holiday in Thailand. It was a fantastic final fling before buying his first flat. I knew that, if I didn't do it then, I'd end up spending the money on my home instead," he said.

Mr Ward spent years paying a rock-bottom rent in a controlled flat, while drawing a very good salary from his job with a leading advertising agency. Now he has saddled himself with a much bigger mortgage than he had intended, and is being seduced by a dream flat.

He said: "I started looking at places at the bottom of my range. I didn't want to be

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No special Wellcome for Sid

BY LIZ DOLAN

SMALLER shareholders are showing an interest in the forthcoming flotation of up to 417 million shares in Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals company. This is despite protestations from Robert Fleming, the leading adviser, that the objectives do not include wider share ownership. In other words, Sid is not part of the ideal customer profile.

Neil Stapley, managing director of NatWest Stockbrokers, said: "We've had some enquiries and there will

probably be more as the publicity builds up. It has been deliberately pitched at the more traditional investor with an existing portfolio; the traditional broker's private client. If I were looking to extend my privatisation portfolio, I don't think I'd go for this one."

Gavin Oldham, chief executive of the Share Centre, based in Tring, Hertfordshire, said: "I certainly think the issue has been made as appealing as possible to private investors though, with a

minimum investment of £1,000, they must certainly be serious investors too."

The offer is similar to last year's BTZ offer, in that institutions must tender for stock, but private investors cannot band together to bid against them. The strike price will be announced on June 25.

Applications may be made through stockbrokers and selected financial advisers or on public application forms. The Share Information Office is on 081-944 1242.

BRIEFINGS

□ NATIONAL & Provincial Building Society is asking customers to help it to recover £29 million in overcharged tax and accrued interest from the government. All customers have been asked to sign and send off a pre-written letter of protest addressed to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, requesting the return of £16 million in overpaid tax and another £13 million in accrued interest.

□ IRISH Life has launched a flexible pension scheme, designed to cope with career changes or breaks as well as additional voluntary contributions and needs that may arise later in the life of the policyholder. The minimum contribution is £30 a month gross, or £360 a year. The minimum single contribution is £2,000. There is an initial charge of 5 per cent, plus monthly deductions of 0.0625 per cent to cover annual management charges.

□ NON-customers can now buy shares through branches of the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society. Minimum commission for both types of transaction is £17.

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SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Fimbra takes strong line on policy sales

BY SARA MCCONNELL

FIRMS making a market in second-hand endowment policies could be investigated by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) for breaching rules forbidding the use of current bonus rates to project returns.

The market for buying and selling unwanted endowment policies has grown dramatically over the past three years and one leading player, Policy Portfolio, estimates it is now worth about £50 million. As well as auctioning life policies, investors can also trade endowments as they would shares through a growing number of market-makers. The advantage of buying a policy which has been in force for a number of years is that it has already earned bonuses which cannot be taken away, and the impact of set-up charges has been borne by the previous owner of the policy.

However, market-makers are indicating that investors buying second-hand policies can expect returns of between 13 per cent and 15 per cent based on current bonus rates. The returns are based on the assumed maturity value of the policy, which itself depends on future levels of bonus rates. Rates from almost all leading life offices have fallen this year, in at least one case by up to 9 per cent.

Fimbra has rejected the market-makers' claim that this was a grey area. Richard Cockcroft, Fimbra's director of practice, said: "It is very simple. As far as we are concerned all members have to use standard projections."

Most of the leading market-makers, including Beale Dobie, Policy Portfolio, Policy Plus and Gerald Edelman, are members of Fimbra.

Insurance companies selling new policies with more than five years to run before maturity are not allowed to use current bonus rates to project returns.

Regulators believe it is misleading to base projections on rates that are not guaranteed to stay the same throughout the term of the policy. The terminal bonus paid by many

leading with-profits life assurance companies represents 50 per cent of the final payout.

Instead, companies have to use standard growth assumptions, a lower rate of 7 per cent and a higher rate of 10.5 per cent, to give investors an indication of the return. Regulators are proposing to apply this rule to policies with less than five years to run before maturity.

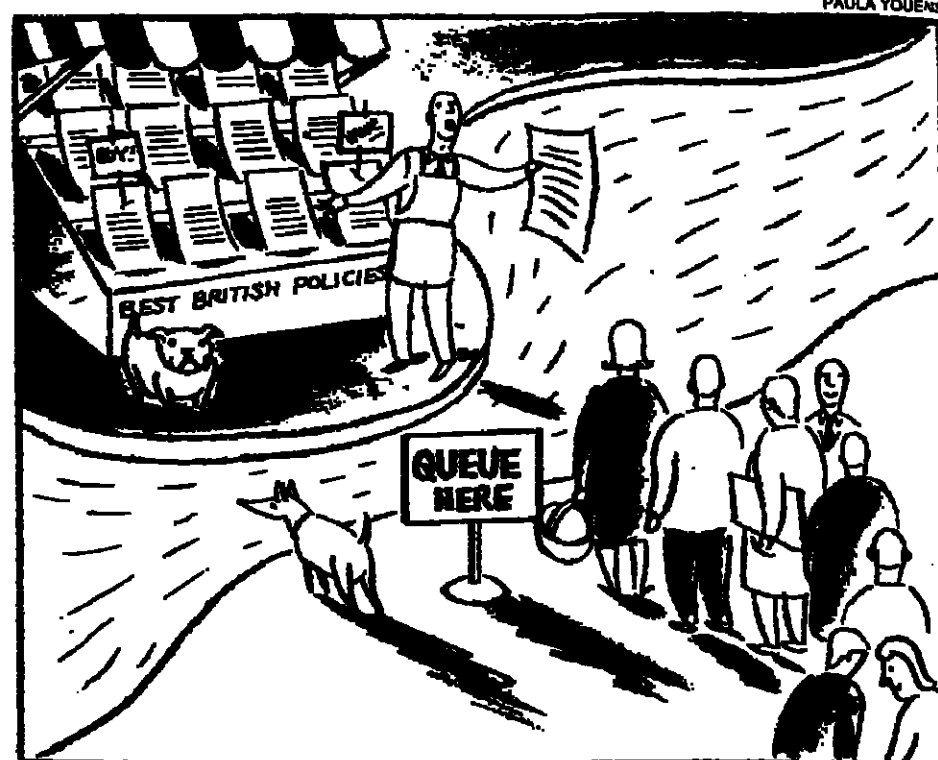
Mr Cockcroft said: "As it stands, I am concerned. I cannot envisage under any circumstances that there will be any sympathy for the case which suggests that current bonus rate projections can continue."

He said: "Falling a satisfactory response from firms in the near future, Fimbra will have to consider the members' position and take a serious view of any rule breach."

Christopher Dobie, director of Beale Dobie, said: "Standard projections prevent any comparison between one life office and another. We need to provide all the information we can for people investing large lump sums." He added that firms had received legal advice that the assumptions they were making did not constitute projections, and would be writing to Fimbra. It was always made clear to customers what assumptions had been used in the calculation.



Cockcroft: concerned



Unwanted life plans boost export trade

BY SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

THE sale of second-hand endowment policies is providing Britain with a valuable export trade.

A growing number of overseas investors, mostly in Europe, have decided that buying unwanted UK policies, with their generous terminal bonuses, is more rewarding than many other forms of investment.

Since the recession, there has been no shortage of unwanted policies available from people who either switched from an endowment mortgage to the cheaper repayment kind, or who need to raise cash.

Most of the companies dealing in second-hand with-profits policies report the largest number of overseas customers in Germany. But business is starting to flourish in Sweden, and other enquiries have come from Israel, Hong Kong, the Middle East and, more recently, America.

The most sought-after policies are 25-year endowments from leading insurance companies such as Scottish Widows, Scottish Amicable, Standard Life, and Norwich Union, with ten or 15 years left to run. Many of them currently sell privately for a

third more than the surrender value an insurance company would pay.

"Policies from most of the Scottish companies are snapped up," said Declan Hoare, financial controller at Policy Network, which acts as agent for policies offered for sale, in return for a fee of 12.5 per cent. "We have just sold 11 policies in one call from a German broker. The rate of return from UK insurance policies exceeds anything that a German life company can offer."

Sammy Alexander of Policy Portfolio, one of the companies that buy and sell with-profits policies, reckons the German customers are generally middle-aged with capital to invest for their retirement. He says while the overseas market is already significant and growing, the supply of policies has never been larger.

"Our overseas customers want policies with leading UK companies like Friends' Provident, Standard Life and Norwich Union, with a range of maturity dates, but preferably those which have been running five or six years or more to go."

Foster & Cranfield believes

only a small proportion of the policies it auctions every four weeks are bought by German customers, but Securised Endowment Contracts, setting up distribution centres in Germany to handle UK policies, estimates that one fifth of the unwanted policies it buys end up abroad.

"Short-term investments do not appeal to the Germans. They are not interested in policies which mature in five or six years. Their ideal policy is one which has run for ten years and matures in another ten or fifteen. Best prices are paid for Scottish Amicable, Scottish Widows, Standard Life, Prudential."

"The Germans take the view that because we are in the ERM the currency risk is negligible. Discounting inflation, the German investor could expect to receive two and a half times what he would get on a German life insurance policy."

A few months after Gerald Edelman began buying and selling policies in 1990, the majority were going abroad. Many have gone to Germany, but Israel provides several customers and a few have ended up in trust funds in Gibraltar and Liechtenstein.

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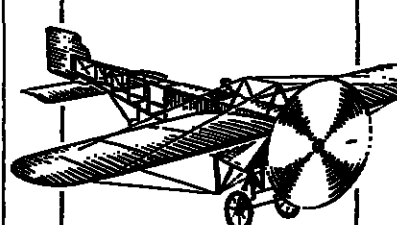
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The same year, Witan Investment Company plc was launched, now the flagship of the Henderson Collection of investment trusts.

Much has changed since 1909. The annual total of overseas visitors arriving in Britain by air, for example, which has grown from just 1 to over 11,000,000.

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Please note that past performance is no guide to the future. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up. Changes in exchange rates between currencies may also cause the value of shares to diminish or increase. Taxes relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon the circumstances of the investor. Figures for Witan's performance are based on net asset values at 27.7.24 and January 1992, assuming net income reinvested. The source of all 10 year statistics is Micropal.

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'Spread' wipes out early gains on units

By SARA MCCONNELL

INVESTORS in unit trusts could find the value of their holding has fallen, even if the stock market rises slightly, because they have not taken into account the 5 per cent "spread" charged by unit trust companies, the investment ombudsman said this week.

In his annual report, Richard Youard said: "You may in fact get back less than you invested even when the market does show an upturn. This can happen very easily where a customer puts his life savings into recommended unit trusts and cashes them in before the market has taken his units above the level of the bid/offer spread."

Many investors had no idea of the impact of the spread on their investment, Mr Youard said. All unit trusts carry an initial charge of between 5 per cent and 6 per cent, which is normally deducted from the investment when it is first made. The charge represents the difference between the price at which units are bought - the offer price - and the price at which they are sold - the bid price.

Mr Youard said: "Several times complainants have said to me that they fully accept that somehow or other the investment manager has to be paid for what he is doing, but in many cases they have no idea of the very real impact in the short term of the so-called 'spread'. The truth comes home dramatically when they receive their first report showing the stock market has moved slightly in their

favour, yet the value of their precious savings invested in the unit trust has actually gone down: they realise for the first time that the unit price must increase by about 5 per cent or 6 per cent above the initial value before they can even get their money back in full."

Investors needed a statement saying that the cost of the manager's services would be deducted from their investment on the first day, and that they would need an equivalent rise in the value of the units before being able to recover their original investment, let alone get any increase in the value, the ombudsman said.

Falls in investments are compounded by the impact of the initial charge, particularly if investors withdraw funds soon after putting them in. Rex Markham, a supply teacher of Flitwick in Bedfordshire, invested £70,000 in a broker bond in June 1990 with Knight Williams, an independent financial adviser. The money was invested in Knight Williams' Principal

Portfolio, a bond which in turn invests in the unit trusts of other companies. There is exposure to the UK, America, Far East, European and Japanese stock markets. The portfolio has one initial 5 per cent charge, deducted from the investment on the first day.

Mr Markham withdrew £5,000 in October that year to help his daughter to buy a house and £6,600 to pay off a car loan in February this year, leaving £58,400. However, the value of his investment two weeks ago was just over £48,000.

John Williams, a director of Knight Williams, said the main reason for the fall in the investment's value was that Mr Markham bought when the markets were high, just before the Gulf war, and withdrew money when the market had fallen in October. The investment had not had time to grow to absorb the impact of the 5 per cent charge.

Mr Williams said the investment would now be worth



Shrinking sum: Rex Markham lost money

£61,485 if the two lump sum withdrawals were added back in, less the initial charge. This is a fall of 12 per cent. Over the same period, the FT world index, which most closely resembles the exposure of Mr Markham's portfolio, fell by 7.23 per cent. Mr Williams said that if the 5 per cent charge was added back into the investment, the value would have fallen by 7 per cent.

Mr Williams said: "If we

had known he wanted capital so soon, we wouldn't have advised going into it."

Mr Markham said: "It sounded plausible at the time, although my wife advised me against putting the whole £70,000 into this. I wish I'd listened to her now. I think there had just been bad investment decisions." He is considering withdrawing some of the money and investing it elsewhere, so that he can compare performance.

Funds put their faith in Europe

By RUPERT BRUCE

DANISH voters may have dented the Maastricht treaty on political and monetary union this week, but Europe's state of flux throws up investment opportunities. Two investment trusts aim to raise a total of up to £120 million in the next few weeks to invest in European stock and bond markets, while a unit trust raised £12 million only two months ago.

The fund managers believe that the increasing integration of Europe, the opening up of eastern Europe, and economic recovery make it a good time to invest in Europe. Similar arguments were used to sell funds two years ago when the markets were at their peak. But Paul Harwood, the fund manager of Mercury Asset Management's New Europe Fund unit trust, which was launched in late March, thinks the outlook for Europe's stock markets is better now.

The euphoria surrounding the collapse of communism

pushed share prices to expensive levels, just as European economies were entering a period of slower growth. Now shares are less expensive and growth rates are expected to accelerate gradually.

Paul Hammett, European economist at Paribas Capital Markets Group, says that interest rates are the key to growth. He thinks they have peaked at between 9 and 10 per cent and, following Germany's lead, should gradually fall across Europe, starting from the last few months of this year.

He gives a warning, however, that German inflation is still above Bundesbank targets and so rates will fall slowly. Mr Harwood regards the prevailing economic and stock market conditions as reasonably favourable. He is buying shares that should benefit from regional and industrial changes and valuation anomalies, as well as recovery plays and smaller companies.

Mercury says substantial

infrastructure spending in the poorer European countries is likely to boost well-positioned companies like Siemens, the German conglomerate, and Huarie, a medium-sized Spanish construction company.

Valuation anomalies have occurred chiefly because European stock markets have been examined separately. But as they slowly come to be considered collectively, Mercury thinks the anomalies should disappear. That gives an opportunity to buy a Swiss drug company like Hoffman La Roche in the hope that it may soon be as expensive as Glaxo, its British rival.

Thornton Management considers the smaller companies effect so important that it is launching the European Smaller Companies investment trust this month. (Thornton defines smaller companies as those with a free market capitalisation of between \$30 million and \$600 million). In both Britain and Germany, statistics show that smaller companies

tend to outperform their larger rivals over long periods.

Smaller companies are also a good investment on economic recovery because their performance tends to be strongest in recovery periods.

These fund launches signify a change in the way British investment managers look at continental stock markets. The Henderson Eurotrust investment trust, which is about to be launched, invests in Britain and treats it as just another part of Europe, as do Mercury and Thornton.

It is also easier for British managers to invest on the continent now because the exchange rate mechanism virtually eliminates currency risk.

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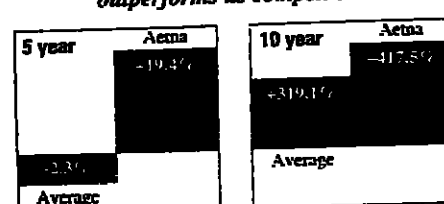
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*Source: Hoare Govett

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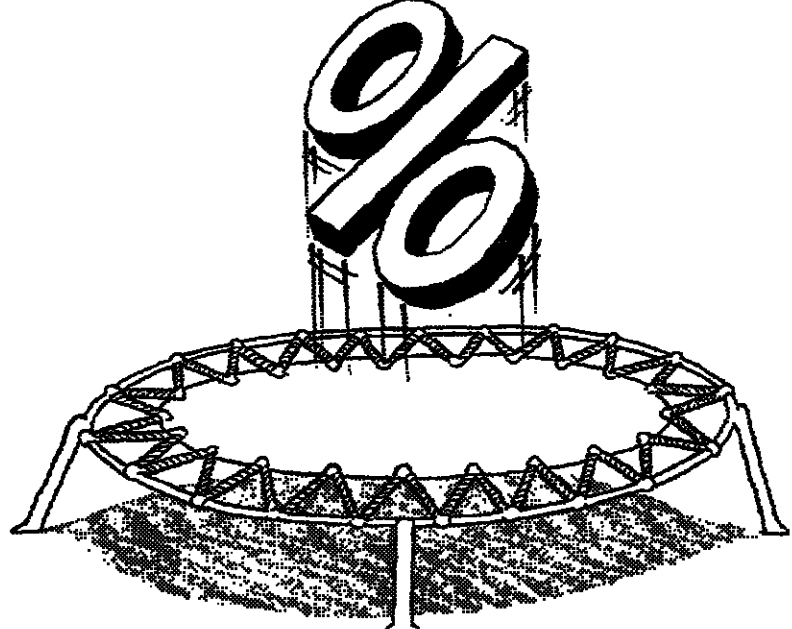
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(The 1978 leak did not contribute to the damage and was disregarded). The fact that the actual damage occurred during the policy was not relevant; it had to be the event giving rise to the loss i.e. the

holder who wants to stop the spread of the sending of counterfoils to the shareholder, but doubt if any of the regis-

was disregarded). The fact that the actual damage occurred during the policy was not relevant; it had to be the event giving rise to the loss i.e. the leak.

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BANKS				
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BIG RACE LINE-UP

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

C4	
(7 runners)	
..... Pat Eddery	99
..... C Roche	90
..... L Piggott	78
..... W R Swinburn	96
..... R Cochrane	87
..... T Jamet	80
..... G Duffield	93
1 Fawcayid, 16-1 Shining Bright,	
nger (19) 9 ran	
<h1>Contenders</h1> <p>Oct 8, Warwick, good (9-7) beat: Elegant Solution (9-4) 41 (71, graduation race, £3,418, 9 ran).</p> <h2>SHINING BRIGHT</h2>	

CIRCLE
good: see ALL AT
market, good: (9-0)
Flatfoot (9-0) with
EL (9-0) 9th 7th
£11,387, 14 ran).
market, good to firm:
A-To-Z (8-9) (71,
869, 10 ran).
beat Stepphica (9-2) 3rd 1st 2nd,
stakes race, £8,222, 9 ran).
Oct 14, Saint-Cloud, soft: (8-11)
nose and sh-hd 3rd to Soeree
£8,146 (8-11) (1m, maiden,
35 ran).
Sept 22, Longchamp, good to soft:
(8-11) 1st 2nd to Kallwada
(8-11) (1m, maiden, £8,147, 9
ran).
USER FRIENDLY
May 9, Infield, good: (8-9) heat

bury, good: (8-9)
Mumby, (8-9) NK
\$10,495, 7 ran.)
all, sold: (8-7) 16wk
re Saron (8-7) (1m
\$52,176, 9 ran.)

isted, \$13,840, 5 ran.)
\$24,900, good to soft.
best Shirley Valentine (8-7)
2½ (1m 21, maiden, \$2,469, 15
ran.)

Selection: PERFECT CIRCLE

3.55 NICHOLS MAID MAKEN FILLIES
GUARANTEED SWEETSTAKES
(3-Y-O: \$2,070-1m 41-44yd) (R)

1-523	CLEAR SOUND 1B (C) Weagb 8 11	F Norton (D) 5
4-430	HUMOUR 1B (C) W Cal 11	N Day 5
3-324	KIRSTEN 21 (BF) W Jours 8 11	J Carroll 4
4-640	CAR APPLE 21 (BF) H Harbors 8 11	V Berry 10
5-02	TOP TABLE 1M M Slatts 11	A Munro 6
6-023	WHITE WEDDING 9 P Core 11	A Clark 2

9-4 Top Table, 5-2 Kasten, 4-1 Clear Sound, 5-1 White Wedding
7-1 Oak Apple, 8-1 Humour

GUARANTEED SWEETPEAS (C2,560: 7) (13)

1 0025 WILD PROSPECT 1 (CD,F,G) C Tinker 4:10 T Lucas 11

2 4513 EUROBLAKE 9 (CD,B,F,G) 1 Barron 5-9:13 A Moring 13

3 0-62 HADSBARY 21 (CD,F) W Carier 4-9:12 J Carroll 13

4 0083 IMEY 17 (D,F,G) J Hastam 4-9:13 J Weaver 5:11

5 2410 DAISSY GREY 16 (B,D,S) A Redd 4-8:16 P McCabe (C) 5:14

6 003 CAIRNS 16 (D,F,G) J Hastam 4-9:13 J Carroll 4

7 0-35 QUITY VICTORY 10 Miss L Sichel 5-8:6 J Norton (3) 4

8 0021 COOL ENOUGH 7 (CD,F,G,S) Miss J Ramsden 11-8:4 A Moring 5

9 0000 PREAMBLE 16 Miss J Ramsden 3-8:3 P Burke 12

10 0000 SAVANNA (V,D,B,F) P J McCormack 4-8:2 A Clark 2

11 0160 KICK ON MAJESTIC 16 (B,C,D,F,G) P Burke 11:7 J Wood 10

12 0065 HIZEM 7 (D,G) A Naughton 8-7:17 Jaki Houston 3

4-1 Cool Engh, 5-1 Inesbey, 6-1 Wild Prospect, 8-1 Eurolake, 9-1 Hamedryad, Quail Victory, 10-1 Chance Lot, 12-1 others

4.55 NORTHERN OCEAN SERVICES
MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES
(3-Y-C, 12:07.0? 7f) (4)

1-1	43	FUSION 12 (BF) F Cote 9-0	A Munro 2
2-1	5	GINGER FLOWER G Whigg 8-9	F Norton (3) 1
3-1	6	GIZELAIN 22 B February 8-9	V Bray (3) 4
4-1	0-40	KIRKBY BELLE 8-2 Wymes 9-9	G Hird 3

4-5 Fusion, 2-1 Ginger Flower, 7-2 Gizlain, 12-1 Kirkby Belle

TRAINERS: N Callaghan, 7 winners from 15 runners, 43.3%; R Williams, 6 from 14, 42.9%; G Wrapp, 5 from 17, 35.3%; M Skoute, 8 from 28, 30.8%; J Berry, 31 from 159, 19.5%; P Cole, 4 from 23, 17.4%.

JOCKEYS: O Pears, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; A Greaves, 9 from 45, 20.0%; F Norton, 4 from 20, 20.0%; J Carroll, 23 from 134, 17.2%; A Clark, 3 from 19, 15.8%; A Munro, 8 from 58, 11.8%.

My Memoirs faces ten

Bluff, the Peakless States winner.
 Betting: 6-5 A/P Indy, 2-1 Pine Bluff, 6-1 Casual Lue, 14-1 Colony Link, Cratolot, 20-1 Al Sabon, My Memoirs, 30-1 Agn court and Baber W Hara (closed at pool), 40-1 Mortimer Hunt, 100-1 Jacksonville

7.30 CARILLISTE CASTLE HANDICAP
 (\$1,618.50) (11)

1	0306	LOMBARD OCEAN 15 (D,P)	M O'Neil 3-8-10	
				5 Fillion 10
2	0002	PILICABA 8 (C,D,F,G) 4-10	Thomas 8-10-9	Chairs Bedding 7 (7)
3	0023	THE RIGHT TIME 12 (D,B,F,S,F)	5	S Maloney 5 (5)
4	404	KING VICTOR 21 (B)	R O'Leary 4-8-12	M Birch 11
5	0044	CHAUTEAU 19 (D,F,S)	Jerry 3-6-12	3 O'Connell 10
6	4241	EDUCATED PET 7 (D,S)	M Johnson 3-8-9	
				Deary McKewen 4
7	3035	FOXES DIAMOND 9 (E)	4-8-8	
8	405	JOVE MYE 12 (D,B,D)	S Smith 5-5-6	
				N Kennedy 5 (5)
9	00-0	SUPRIME DESIRE 29 A Sunit 4-8-10		W Webster 3
10	0000	CASTLE CARY 28 (D,F)	Craig 6-7-4	L Charnock 2
11	00-8	MINSK 9 1 Craig 6-7-1		P Burke 1
				14 Educated Pet, 7-8 Fillion, 12-1 Casual Lue, 14-1 Jove Music, 8-1 The Right Time, 10-1 Lombard Ocean, 12-1 others

8.00 SANDS CENTIAN MAIDEN AUCTION
MAIDEN STAKES (€1,506 57 27YAD) (3)

1	522	BAY MARTIN B M Johnston J	Dean Mackinnon
2	544	MURRAY'S MAZDA 40 J Berry	C Gormley
3	573	TELLAS J Storey	S Webster 1

4-7 Bay Martin, 3-1 Murray's Mazda, 4-1 Tellgas.

8.30 EBF CARLISLE STATION MAIDEN
STAKES (€1,876 51 27YAD) (8)

1	52	COP THE CASH 12 M Bell 94	Dean Mackinnon
2	34	BOSTON GOLD 10 M Bell 94	C Gormley
3	50	RED CENT J Ehemington 90	L Lucas
4	6	THASINUS 19 H Thomson-Jones 90	N Carlisle
5	16	WHISKEY CAP M Paveccoli 90	J Lowe 2
6	8	BARDIA E Innes 89	Jedi Houston 3
7	5	CLUBBURN NEWS 18 M Tangrams 89	P Robinson 8
8	15	CRUZZ 12 M Bell 94	

9.00 CARLISLE CATHEDRAL HANDICAP
(£1,600, 1m 4f) (9)
1- 01-3 SPARKSHINE 10 (D.F.G.S.) R Whiteley 5 9-10
2- 06A3 MINUS 15 (D.S.) M J Remond 5-9-4 A Culhane 1
3- 6/ MILS MILLS 25 (J.D.) T Cumber 7-9-2 F Ticey 7
4- 0-00 WSCOM 11 (C) Car 4-9-11 — S Morris 3
5- 0005 TALISH 22 (D.F.) R Smith 4-8-9 Also Greeney 4
6- 000 KINKO 2 F Kegg (D.G.S.) A Gars 7-9-7
7- 60-1 GROUSE-H HEATHER 18 (D.F.) M G Revelley 3-8-7 J Love 2
8- 5030N CALIPH MELLOY 14 L Spening 4-7-8
9- 0400 LUKS AKURA 16 (P.F.M.) M Jemson 4-7-7 M Stewart 7 (B)
5-2 GROUSE-H Heather, 31-3 SPARKSHINE 4-1 Talsh, 6-1 Cornwell
Melody 8-1 Mungus, 10-1 WSCOM, 12-1 others

☐ Sileston runs in tomorrow's group two Premio Emilio Turati (1m) at San Siro, Milan, where he faces stern opposition from the French 2,000 Guineas fifth Judge Decision.

Rare talent tempted by history's trappings



Johnson: big decision

For the last eight months I have been preparing for the 1992 athletics season. The training regime has been thorough and the goals have been set. Now is the time for competition. There are no prizes for training well; it is the racing that matters.

My first race was in Bratislava on Monday. Originally thought to be a gentle opener, it ended up being a baptism by fire, since I was to face the world's fastest man over the distance, Michael Johnson, of the United States. To be honest there was never any doubt about who was going to win. Michael is in superb form and has to be because the US Olympic trials are only a couple of weeks away.

As expected, he won comfortably and with authority. I always try to learn from my first few races. The 400 metres is a difficult event because the slightest error in pace judgment can result in a significantly slower time. When the important races begin in July there will be no room for mistakes. Taking all this into consideration, my first outing has been satisfactory.

Michael has a big decision to make soon: whether to run the 200 metres, 400 metres, or both, at the Olympic Games. There are many factors that will influence his decision. The timetable of events is such that, if he were to attempt both distances, he would have little time for rest. The organisers are sym-



Roger Black, 400 metres silver medal winner at the world championships, assesses the difficulties facing Michael Johnson if he is to set an athletics first at the Olympics

pathetic to his cause and are contemplating a change in schedule. Regardless, his task is daunting, especially since each final will be preceded by three rounds that are physically and mentally draining.

I believe Michael's decision depends on how much he wants to try to make history. A 200 metres-400 metres double has never been achieved at the Olympic Games. If his ambition is to win an Olympic gold medal then he would be wiser to concentrate solely on the 200 metres, a distance at which he is world champion and potential world record-holder. Over 400 metres he is undefeated but is yet to be tested under championship conditions. Running four races in five days is different from a one-off race with plenty of rest beforehand.

There is no question that Michael can cope with the pressure, but it would be a greater risk to take. He is due

to run the 200 metres in Rome on Tuesday, after which he believes he will be in the position to decide.

If I were Michael I too would be sorely tempted to try the double. He is a rare talent, possessing a unique running action and ability that has yet to be truly tested. He commands a respect in the athletics world that few again, not just for his physical prowess but also for the manner in which he conducts himself.

At home, the first important domestic meeting takes place in Sheffield this weekend. The United Kingdom championships always signal the beginning of the season for Britain's potential Olympians. Athletes compete with different goals and aspirations. It is the British sport at its best. The established athletes compete on equal terms with those of the future.

Athletes like myself often appear to be detached from the grass-roots level, which carries on for thousands of people and is not governed by Olympic ambition or personal glory. For every British international, there are hundreds of other athletes training just as hard. The UK championships is a great leveler and is always a meeting I look forward to. Virtually all the big names in the sport have entered this year, so, hopefully, the always appreciative Sheffield crowd will have plenty of first-class competition to enjoy.

This year, the Olympic Games will take centre stage, after which the grand prix circuit will continue to work its way round Europe. The British team also has the World Athletics Cup to compete for in Cuba towards the end of September. This will be a long hard season for us all, full of successes and failures, laughter and tears. New standards will be set and new faces will make their mark. All told, plenty to look forward to, and plenty to aspire to.

Great Britain and Ireland 3½ points from famous Curtis Cup victory

Young Hall leads singles charge

BY MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

CAROLINE Hall and Catriona Lambert yesterday annihilated the two most experienced players in the United States team as Great Britain and Ireland took a commanding 6-3 lead in the Curtis Cup at Hoylake.

Hall, at 18 the youngest player in the match, overcame Leslie Shannon, aged 43, 6 and 5 and Lambert, aged 22, beat Carol Semple Thompson, the veteran of seven Curtis Cups, 3 and 2.

"I just enjoyed myself so much," Hall said. "I was nervous, yes, but I saw a few familiar faces in the crowd which settled me. It's the best golf I've ever played in my life especially when you take into account the occasion."

The first day was a carbon copy of the one at Royal St George's four years ago. Great Britain and Ireland won the foursomes 2½-1½ and increased their advantage by winning three and halving one of the six singles. They need to win 3½ points from the remaining three foursomes and six singles to secure another triumph.

Liz Boatman, the captain, said: "We've made a great start and there is no chance of the girls becoming complacent. They have already told me that and I believe them. This is a good team with a positive outlook."

The performance by Hall demonstrated her determination. In the morning, partnered by her namesake, Julie Hall, she was disappointed to emerge with only a half from her foursomes match after frittering away a two-hole advantage with three to play.

Yet she shrugged that aside to play golf of the highest calibre on a day when torrential rain accompanied by a strong wind created difficult conditions.

Hall chipped close to win the 1st from Shannon with a par. She was three up following a superb seven iron approach at the 6th which led to a birdie putt of eight feet. Shannon simply could not respond and Hall, clearly enjoying every minute, struck another convincing blow at the 11th with a two iron tee shot which left the ball only six inches from the hole. "The best shot of my life? It has to be," she said.

In finishing the match on the 13th green, Hall completed one of the biggest wins by a Great Britain and Ireland player in the history of the match. Lambert, however, had every reason to feel equally delighted by her success against Thompson.

Lambert went three up by winning both the 13th, with a par, and the 14th, where she holed a putt of eight feet for a birdie. Then she extinguished Thompson's flickering hopes of keeping the match alive by holing from fully 30 feet for a birdie at the 16th.

Elaine Farquharson gained another point for Great Britain and Ireland by



Do it my way: Thomas and Lambert discuss a putt during the foursomes against the US

beating Robin Weiss 2 and 1. "I call that sweet revenge," Farquharson said. "She beat me 2 and 1 in America two years ago. In fact I lost all my matches that year but I still didn't like it the way one writer put it that the big question was why did Elaine Farquharson play in all four games?"

Farquharson, two up after ten, was brought back to all square when Weiss won both the 1 and 12th. This, then, he time to show the resolve required to win at this level and Farquharson did so in some style. She got up and down from a grass hollow right of the 14th green, holing from eight feet for a birdie, and coaxed the ball in from 15 feet for another birdie at the next. Weiss, whose play on around the greens was exceptional, holed from 10 feet at the 16th but Farquharson followed here in from seven feet.

Nicola Buxton lost to a fierce counter-attack by Martha Lang; Julie Hall was beaten by the impressive Vicki Goetze; but Joanne Morley recovered from two down after 11 to halve with Amy Fruwirth.

Halls unhappy with a half

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

BRITISH and Irish hearts sank to the bottom of their wellingtons at Hoylake yesterday morning as Amy Fruwirth and Vicki Goetze, a pair of archetypal all-Americans, played immaculately in the all-British conditions to win the first two holes of the first foursomes match against the home pair of Halls, Julie and Caroline.

Old Curtis Cup hands know that the first series of foursomes is often vital to the result of the entire match. When Great Britain and Ireland won consecutive matches, at Prairie Dunes in 1986 and Royal St George's in 1988, they won the opening

foursomes 3-0 and 2½-1½. "However, all 'n' all (as they refer to themselves) relish a good 'lead' to 'lead' and they found the long third with a par five (the Americans demonstrated a shot each in the rough) and the short fourth with a birdie two, after a lovely tee shot from Caroline, the younger 'all'.

In appalling conditions of wind and rain, they turned all square, both pairs out in 38, one over par. The Americans, ponytails poking out of the back of their baseball caps, were hard to tell apart. Neat, ordered and diminutive, they were like flat, calm water. The Brits, bigger and more emo-

tional, were choppy but they were two up with three to play after the 15th, where Fruwirth, the US amateur champion, bunkered her partner on three occasions.

The Americans won the 16th with a birdie, the 17th was halved in scrappy bogey fives and at the 18th, it was the Brits who fell foul of Hoylake's devilish, steep-faced bunkers. After Fruwirth had put her side on the green in two, Hall, J, caught her side's second shot heavy and Hall, C, was faced with a hugely difficult bunker shot. The upshot was a sorry six and the Americans had escaped with a half.

The Halls were downcast but the other two matches went to the home side and, with two-and-a-half points to a half, surely Great Britain and Ireland were home, if not dry? At that thought, all old Curtis Cup hands started gnawing at their fingernails and touching wood...

RESULTS FROM HOYLAKES
GB and Ireland names first
FOURSOMES: J Hall and C Hall halved with A Fruwirth and V Goetze; V Thomas and C Lambert bt L Shannon and S Le Brun 1 and 2; J Morley and C Houghton bt T Hansen and C Semple Thompson 2 and 1; Results: GB and Ireland 6½, United States 3½.
SINGLES: Morley halved with Fruwirth; J Hall lost to Goetze, 3 and 2; C Hall bt Shannon, 6 and 5; E Farquharson bt R Weiss, 2 and 1; N Buxton lost to M Lang, 2 holes; Lambert bt Semple Thompson, 4 and 2; Results: GB and Ireland 3½, United States 2½. Match position: GB and Ireland 10, United States 3.
TODAY'S DRAW: Foursomes (GB and Ireland names first): 9.30am: J Hall and C Hall v A Fruwirth and V Goetze; 9.45am: C Houghton and J Morley v T Hansen and R Weiss; 10am: C Lambert and V Thomas v T Hansen and C Semple Thompson.

BOXING

Title can go to Lewis by default

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis could be a world heavyweight champion after one more bout. Lewis's camp believes that if Lewis wins his elimination bout against Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, of Canada, in London in October, he could become the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion a month later without throwing another punch.

It all depends on Evander Holyfield, the world champion. If Holyfield does not defend against Lewis first but goes ahead with the bout with Riddick Bowe, the world No. 3, in November, the WBC would have to strip Holyfield of the title and award it to Lewis.

Lewis's commercial manager, Roger Levitt, said yesterday: "We have heard that arrangements have been made for Holyfield to fight Bowe in Las Vegas, on November 13. If he does, he will be stripped and Lennox, who we are certain will beat Ruddock in the eliminator, made champion."

José Suleiman, the president of the WBC, said that his organisation would back the winner of the eliminator. "Holyfield's people have not decided what they are going to do," Suleiman said.

"They have promised me and Dr Elias Ghanem, our vice-president and a member of the Nevada commission, that they will give us their decision on June 20 immediately after Holyfield's fight with Larry Holmes, so I do not want to say anything about what the WBC will do, especially in a hypothetical case, until I hear from Dan Duva [Holyfield's manager]."

Duva did tell me that they did not want to fight Lewis because he is not an attraction in America. But you can be certain the WBC will be right behind the winner of the eliminator all the way."

Holyfield has not faced a leading challenger for 19 months. After winning the title from James "Buster" Douglas, Holyfield should have met Mike Tyson.

Instead, he defended against George Foreman and Bert Cooper. A defence against Tyson was arranged for earlier this year but the former champion dropped out because of a rib injury.

After the elimination of Tyson from the rankings because of his imprisonment for rape, Holyfield was ordered by the WBC to meet the winner of an elimination bout between Ridduck, No. 1, and Bowe, No. 2.

Bowe ducked that bout, preferring to take a softer opponent in Pierre Coetzee, the World Boxing Association No. 1, on July 18. Holyfield was then told he must face the winner of the eliminator between Ruddock and Lewis, who has risen to second place in the rankings.

CRICKET

Larkins discovers new lease of life at the crease

BY PETER BALL

DURHAM'S entry into first-class cricket was bound to bring a breath of fresh air to the circuit. To see them already with two championship victories under their belt is less expected; to some people, seeing Wayne Larkins playing with all his old verve is most surprising of all.

For Ian Botham, Dean Jones and Paul Parker to succeed has not come as a surprise. But when Geoff Cook, Durham's director of cricket, went back to Northamptonshire for his former opening partner, eyebrows were raised. Few doubted Larkins's ability; some questioned whether he had retained his appetite.

Larkins—Ned to everyone in the game—has delighted in proving them wrong, making important contributions in the fledgling county's two championship wins, following his 143 against Glamorgan with 92 in a run chase against Somerset at Dardington on Thursday.

"I think I'm playing as well as ever, if not better, because I'm being more selective in my shots," he said at his Derbyshire hotel during the enforced idleness yesterday from the rain that prevented play across the county, except for 4.2 overs at Tunbridge Wells. "I'm really happy with life. I really want to play. I look forward to playing every day. I've got my motivation back again."

After 22 years with Northamptonshire, he is clearly thriving in his new surroundings, happily transplanted to the North, with a house near the racetrack in Sedgfield.



Larkins: thriving

Kent v Essex

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (first day of three, Kent won 100). Essex have scored 12 runs for no wicket against Kent. Essex: First innings: P J Pritchard not out 3, J P Stephenson not out 8, Essex (10): Total (no wickets, 4.2 overs): 12. M E Waugh, N Hussain, N V Knight, N Shahid, M A Ghamham, N A Foster, M C Blett, S J W Anderson and J H Childs to bat. KENT: T R Ward, M P Borman, W R Taylor, C L Hooper, G R Cowdrey, M V Fleming, N J Long, T S A Marshall, M A Salmon, R M Gannon and A J Leighton. Bonus points: Kent 0, Essex 0. Umpires: J H Harris and P B Wright.

No play

Britannic Assurance county championship: CHERESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v Durham. OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Gloucestershire. LORD'S: Middlesex v Leicestershire. MIDDLEBROUGH: Yorkshire v Somerset. Section XI: BAY CLARKSON TROPHY: Worcester v Warwickshire v Warwickshire—no result. RAPID CRICKETLINE CHAMPIONSHIP: Guildford School Northamptonshire 332-6 dec (R J Warren 131 not out, R N Dutton 59); Middlesex 31-2. Match drawn.

EQUESTRIANISM

Nolan moves up front

PIPPA Nolan took the lead as the end of the Toyota Bramham international horse trials at Wetherby yesterday, and is philosophical about today's cross-country (a Special Correspondent writes).

She led here last year with the horse, Metronome, after the cross-country, only to drop to thirteenth while showing jumping in a thunder storm. They went well at Burghley last autumn but pulled up halfway round the recent Badminton cross-country course after two runs out.

The order changed dra-

matically with the last five of the 60 runners last night, with Mandy Sibbe, the last to go, taking second place on Kings Jester after riding him for only two weeks. Only ten points separate the top ten horses at the start of today's 16-mile marathon, including the testing 29-fence, three-and-a-half-mile cross-country course, on which one refusal costs 20 points.

RESULTS (after dressage): CCI, 1, Metronome, P Nolan, 47.20; 2, Kings Jester, M Sibbe (Nolan), 53.80; 3, Fair Dinkum, S Taylor, 54.20. Young Riders championship: 1, McRatley, Newman, 41.40; 2, Tony Percy, J Lane, 44.20; 3, Diamond Pictor, J Jennings, 46.20.

King's leavers may slow wheel of fortune

BY CHRIS DIGHTON

THE last time King's School, Macclesfield lost a cricket match was against MCC in 1989, a run that has extended seven games into this season for a total of 47 matches unbeaten.

However, Mark Harbord, the master in charge of cricket, believes the record could be existing on borrowed time. "The success we have enjoyed was down to a fine crop of players who have now gone through the fifth and sixth

forms and left the school, which means we are starting again with a new squad. Among those who left were Kym Graham, who scored 1,000 runs two seasons in succession while Andrew Owens weighed in with 600 last year. The bowling was held up by Simon James with 47 wickets.

The wicket-taker's job has passed to James's younger brother, Andrew, a left-arm spinner who recently showed why he has been registered with Lancashire for the sum-

mer and has been in the England Under-17 training squad. Playing against Newcastle High School, he returned figures of 11-5-11-7 as the opponents were bowled out for 76.

"We have won two games this season, but being in the northwest have suffered particularly from the weather," Harbord said.

He said that the foundation for success goes beyond the luck of having a talented group. "Before we started out on the run we went on tour to

Pakistan staying at the Aitchison College in Lahore. That was not only a fascinating experience but had a real jelling effect on the team."

The school has as groundsman and coach Stephen Moores, brother of the Sussex wicketkeeper, Peter, an old boy. If Andrew James enjoyed an excellent bowling spell for the school, consider the performance of Andrew Dollamore, of Denstone College, Uttoxeter, who returned sensational figures in a house match.

Dollamore was brought on when the opposition score was 30 for one and he had an immediate impact. In his first over took five wickets, one more in each of his next two overs and two in his fourth over. That left him with figures of nine for two and the only runs he conceded were two wickets.

RESULTS: "Cherbrook 180, Parnsey CC 132; Macclesfield 68-82, Barnby BC 70-55; Guildford 189-4, Wallington HS 85; Haverham 130-151, "King's" Bristol 40-54; Larnock CC 100-100, "Seaside" 100-100; Kent College 228-5, Bexley/Griffin 108. * denotes home team.

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حزبان الأصل

Courier enjoys comfortable passage

Leconte's dreams are shattered by the skilful Korda

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

A TALL and talented left-hander will be in the final of the French Open on Sunday, but it will not be the one of the French Open wanted. On a cold and cheerless day at Roland Garros, the centre court crowd, who had come to be warmed by the fires of Henri Leconte, were reduced to a frozen silence by the gentle skills of Petr Korda and the under certainty of Jim Courier.

Korda, fair and spiky-haired, has been nicknamed Woodstock after the bird in the Peanuts cartoon. Unfortunately, Leconte chose yesterday to play like Charlie Brown. "I really never got into the match. I was always 1 metre late on my shots. It was not a good day," he explained after his 6-2, 7-6, 6-3 defeat.

At least, he lasted a little longer than Andre Agassi, whose resistance to Courier's flinty efficiency proved paper-thin. If only Agassi had played as bravely as he had talked beforehand, we might have had a match. But when the defending champion broke for the first five times in the match in the eighth game of the first set, Agassi's spirits flagged visibly, and with each blow of the Courier hammer, a few home truths were nailed to the wall.

"I have been reading a bit about how I don't have much talent," Courier barked. "But there are many different talents besides hitting a tennis ball. Having guts on court is a talent, having desire is a talent, having the courage to go

for a shot at 0-40 is a talent too.

"It's not just being able to hit a drop volley, you know. I am hitting the cleanest of anyone out there and I have got a few talents that are just as good as anybody else's." Point taken. And, hopefully, by Agassi, who is still trying to find the right balance between the worker and the artist. He was neither yesterday and a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 scoreline was an accurate reflection of a one-sided affair.

Agassi had just three points to break Courier's impregnable service, but, though his dream of a first grand slam title seemed further away than ever, he insisted that the tournament had answered important questions about his future.

"I have lost matches this year that were out of the ordinary and I came here wondering if the same thing was going to happen. But it hasn't. You could never complain about losing to someone who is playing the best tennis in the tournament."

While the Americans had played to barely half a gallery, by the time the main contestants of the day came onto court, the stadium was full to the brim. For most, it would have been their first sight of Korda, the seventh seed.

Two weeks ago, he had not progressed beyond the third round of a grand slam, despite showing enough consistency on the tour to break into the top ten. The crowd took

three games to get the message.

Korda won all three and not long after took the first set as well. Leconte responded with an early break in the second, but he sprayed two crucial backhands wide as he served for the set and then lost the tie-break on another mishit. This time, from 2-0 down, there was no return, even for the lion of Lyons.

Now Korda has the unenviable task of subduing the top seed in the final tomorrow. He has beaten him once and lost to him once — both matches were last year — and shows no sign of being weighed down by the thought of his first grand slam final or by the prospect of meeting the champion. "I will think about it two minutes before the start," he said.

Given Courier's awesome form this fortnight, that sounds like a wise move.

RESULTS: Men: Singles: Semi-finals: J. Courier (US) 6-2, 7-6, 6-3 P. Korda (CZ) 6-2, 7-6, 6-3. Doubles: Semi-finals: D. Adams (AUS) and A. Panatta (ITA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. Final: D. Adams (AUS) and A. Panatta (ITA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. Women: Singles: Quarter-finals: G. Martinez and A. Sanchez Vicario (ESP) 6-3, 6-4. Semi-finals: G. Fernandez (ESP) and M. Zvereva (CIS) 6-3, 6-4. Final: G. Fernandez (ESP) and M. Zvereva (CIS) 6-3, 6-4. Doubles: Quarter-finals: A. Sanchez Vicario (ESP) and T. Woodbridge (AUS) 6-3, 6-4. Semi-finals: L. McNeil and B. Shuster (US) 6-3, 6-4. Final: L. McNeil and B. Shuster (US) 6-3, 6-4.

Rain washed out play in the Direct Line Insurance tournament at Beckenham yesterday, leaving Ivan Lendl facing a four-match schedule this weekend if he is to retain his title.



Bold Czechoslovak: Korda returns during his semi-final win over Leconte

Seles expecting to run and run against Graf

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, IN PARIS

SHOULD Monica Seles win her third successive French Open title today against Steffi Graf, she would join a select club. Only six players have managed the feat, including Seles's heroine, Suzanne Lenglen, who won four in a row from 1920 to 1923, and none has done so since Hilde Sperling, of Germany, 55 years ago.

A third victory over Graf in her eighth encounter would send the world No. 1 to Wimbledon, her most difficult task of the year, with half a

grand slam completed. Seles, the woman in possession, is the favourite here, just as Graf, the Wimbledon champion, would be if they met again on the centre court grass in a month's time.

Graf will be able to play without inhibition, without fearing defeat and she has deliberately encouraged the thought that her third French Open title — and first since 1988 — would come as the biggest surprise of all.

"It's just a very good feeling to be in the final and that was more or less my goal," Graf said. "But now that I am in the final, I have the

experience of being there and I will be ready for it."

Graf also says that she is enjoying her tennis more than this time last year.

She has been playing doubles, reaching the semi-finals with Anke Huber, and has even suggested she would

her game is in we will find out properly today.

Under the guidance of Heinz Günthardt, her new coach, Graf is trying to become a more complete player.

Her ability to hit down the line and cross-court on the forehand kept Sanchez Vicario off balance for much of the second and third sets in the semi-final, and Seles, whose anticipation makes up for her lack of speed, has not experienced the revised Graf yet. They have not played each other for more than a year.

Both came through months of crisis. Graf against Zvereva and Sanchez Vicario. Seles against Kijimuta and Sabatini. If it comes down to pure willpower, you would have to favour Seles, who is ruthless when she falls behind.

Graf is the better athlete and has won their last two matches. "I will have to prepare myself for a lot of running because I don't think Steffi has many weaknesses. I will have to serve well, run down a lot of balls, not make errors and hit quite a lot of winners," Seles said. She is quite capable of doing all those.

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FOOTBALL

England's style may bring best out of Denmark

FROM STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN MALMO

THE Danish spy sent to watch England in Helsinki has returned home bearing a dossier full of good tidings for his superior. Flemming Serritslev is to tell his national manager of the unexpected flaws he saw on Wednesday in their first opponents in the European championship.

Serritslev, one of Richard Moller-Nielsen's assistant coaches, expressed his surprise during the flight back to Copenhagen yesterday. England, he feels, have adopted a system which offers the Danes more hope than they might otherwise have taken into the fixture in Malmo on Thursday.

The weaknesses he specifically noted lie at the middle and on the right side of England's defence. Moreover, Denmark have two youngsters in Flemming Povlsen and Bengt Christensen, both of whom are attached to German clubs and have the necessary qualities to expose the deficiencies.

"When we play with marking defenders," he explained, "they always stay very close to their strikers, very close. I think that Martin Keown and Des Walker were too far away from their opponents." For all that, Walker impressed him as England's outstanding individual in the 2-1 victory over Finland.

But Walker is accustomed to patrolling a zone, which is his duty in the usual domestic 4-4-2 formation, rather than guarding an opponent, his role in the continental 3-5-2 configuration reintroduced

by Graham Taylor. "I think that playing that way will cause England problems," Serritslev warned.

So will the loss of Gary Stevens. Taylor previously indicated that he had the option of moving Trevor Steven to right back, as was the case in the second half against Finland. "For me, Trevor Steven is a midfield player," Serritslev said, "not a wing back. We have two fast and skilful players who can exploit the new English system."

The cruel misfortune which befell John Barnes represents another stroke of luck for the Danes. "He is a very fine player and, because English matches are seen every Saturday on television, he is admired throughout Denmark. His injury is a very big handicap for England but the team doesn't stand or fall on one player."

"We know how strong they are but it wasn't like being at an English League game in Helsinki. They were passing short and keeping the ball on the ground much more than I expected, rather than hitting it in a more direct style from one penalty area to the other."

The manager of B1909 Odense is intrigued by Carlton Palmer, who came on after the interval in Helsinki. Serritslev regards the Sheffield Wednesday midfielder as more than merely functional. "He runs a lot but that is not all. He goes wide and takes intelligent positions. He is interesting."

Europeans snub hooligan curbs

By JOHN GOODBODY

AS FEW as 20 convicted English hooligans, out of hundreds, will be barred from leaving the UK for the European championship in Sweden, because many other countries have refused to give details of even serious offenders to the Home Office.

Only Italy and Scotland have co-operated, allowing English courts to impose restriction orders under the 1989 Football Spectators Act. This forces troublemakers convicted of football-related offences abroad to report to police stations while relevant matches are being played.

Sweden will supply names and addresses of offenders convicted of serious offences at this championship. This will be too late to stop any troublemakers getting through, but the English police have given the Swedes the names of 200 guilty people hoping that they will be used to prevent entry.

Serious incidents are probably more likely in Copenhagen, where the bulk of the England followers will be staying because alcohol and accommodation are cheaper. They will travel on the ferries across to Malmo, where England meet Denmark on Thursday. With thousands of Danes also likely to make the short trip, the potential for violence exists.

Craig Brewin, the chairman of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), said yesterday that he was worried about the transport between the countries. He said: "We have had no definite news about any extra ferries or hydrofoils on the day of the match."

The FSA is to set up advice centres in Sweden and Denmark, although it gets no financial aid from the British government or the FA. It will cost the 11 people running the centres up to £10,000 of their own money to staff and maintain them.

The FA has offered space in its Malmo office to the FSA and the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs, which has accepted. But the FSA believes it would lose credibility if it does the same.

RUGBY UNION

New Zealand switch their attentions

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN WELLINGTON

ONCE they have concluded their immediate business with Ireland, and announced tomorrow their party to tour Australia and South Africa, the New Zealand selectors will turn their minds to the development tour by England that begins next Wednesday in Oamaru.

Peter Thornburn, the former North Harbour coach, who will prepare the New Zealand XV to play England B, believes the selection panel's priority is to find a group of players and a brand of rugby good enough to take his country to the top in time for the third World Cup, in 1995.

In the meantime, they regard England B with wary respect. "There is some amazement here that England's senior side may not have woken up to how good they can be," Thornburn said. There is no doubt that the B party can do a substantial public relations job for the northern hemisphere by playing an attractive blend of rugby, particularly in the smaller centres to which their itinerary takes them.

The first of their eight matches, against North Otago, will involve only two of the players who appeared in the four B internationals last sea-

son. However, the XV captained by Mark Russell, the Harlequins flanker, will include Martin Bayfield, the senior lock, and Martin Hynes, the Orrell prop, who was a replacement during England's 1992 grand slam. All those who do not play at Oamaru will appear against Southland the following Saturday.

Scotland have sent for Andy Macdonald to replace Stuart Reid, who has a tendinitis injury and will be unable to take any further part in their tour of Australia. Macdonald was summoned from Moscow, where he was touring with the Barbarians, who play their first ever match against the CIS today.

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ATHLETICS

Barcelona hopefuls on their marks

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ALL but a few of the British athletes who have Olympic title aspirations this summer begin their domestic season in earnest this weekend in the Pearl UK championships at the Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield.

For others, the challenge is to be there in Barcelona and today is judgment day for the women 10,000 metres runners, heptathletes and decathletes.

Given that Liz McColgan, the world champion, and Jill Hunter are assured of selection at 10,000 metres, there remains one place to be filled. Until recently, Andrea Wallace, the world road race runner-up, seemed the only contender and had passed up the chance of a marathon place, so confident was she.

Now, Suzanne Rigg, has emerged as a challenger.

But, should Rigg win today's race, her next one will be with the Home Office. Rigg is an American now qualified to compete for Britain provided she is in possession of a British passport.

Her local MP in Warrington, Doug Hoyle, is trying to help her so that, if she wins and achieves the qualifying time of 32min 50sec, she can take her place in the team.

"The latest is that I am going to get my passport in the middle of next week," Rigg said. Rigg, who is married to the British 800 metres runner, John Rigg, has lived in Britain for the three years required for a British passport.

She rates her chances of

winning today as being "as good as anybody's". Her training performances suggest that she might trouble Wallace, who appears vulnerable after finishing 78sec behind McColgan in a 10-km road race in New York last weekend.

The decathlon qualifying mark is 7,850 points, but no Briton has performed to that level since Daley Thompson at the Seoul Olympics four years ago. Competitors trying to achieve it in the Olympic trial, which began yesterday had their task made harder by the cold, wind and rain.

Eric Hollingworth, one of the best decathletes, abandoned the idea of trying to qualify after one event, choosing to save himself for another attempt in the three

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ST DENIS, France: International meeting. Winners: Men: 100m: D. Mitchell (US), 10.07sec; 200m: J.C. Traubert (FR), 20.48; 400m: R. Hernandez (CUB), 45.71; 800m: J.P. Herold (GER), 1min 53.11sec; 1,500m: N. Morrell (AUS), 4:58.21; 5,000m: M. Isinger (GER), 15:19.84; 10km: J. P. Herold (GER), 32:28; 20km: J. P. Herold (GER), 65:38; 30km: J. P. Herold (GER), 98:45; 40km: J. P. Herold (GER), 1:16:45; 50km: J. P. Herold (GER), 1:48:45; 60km: J. P. Herold (GER), 2:20:45; 70km: J. P. Herold (GER), 2:52:45; 80km: J. P. Herold (GER), 3:24:45; 90km: J. P. Herold (GER), 3:56:45; 100km: J. P. Herold (GER), 4:28:45; 110km: J. P. Herold (GER), 5:00:45; 120km: J. P. Herold (GER), 5:32:45; 130km: J. P. Herold (GER), 6:04:45; 140km: J. P. Herold (GER), 6:36:45; 150km: J. P. Herold (GER), 7:08:45; 160km: J. P. Herold (GER), 7:40:45; 170km: J. P. Herold (GER), 8:12:45; 180km: J. P. Herold (GER), 8:44:45; 190km: J. P. Herold (GER), 9:16:45; 200km: J. P. Herold (GER), 9:48:45; 210km: J. P. Herold (GER), 10:20:45; 220km: J. P. Herold (GER), 10:52:45; 230km: J. P. Herold (GER), 11:24:45; 240km: J. P. Herold (GER), 11:56:45; 250km: J. P. Herold (GER), 12:28:45; 260km: J. P. Herold (GER), 13:00:45; 270km: J. P. Herold (GER), 13:32:45; 280km: J. P. Herold (GER), 14:04:45; 290km: J. P. Herold (GER), 14:36:45; 300km: J. P. Herold (GER), 15:08:45; 310km: J. P. Herold (GER), 15:40:45; 320km: J. P. Herold (GER), 16:12:45; 330km: J. P. Herold (GER), 16:44:45; 340km: J. P. Herold (GER), 17:16:45; 350km: J. P. Herold (GER), 17:48:45; 360km: J. P. Herold (GER), 18:20:45; 370km: J. P. Herold (GER), 18:52:45; 380km: J. P. Herold (GER), 19:24:45; 390km: J. P. Herold (GER), 19:56:45; 400km: J. P. Herold (GER), 20:28:45; 410km: J. P. Herold (GER), 21:00:45; 420km: J. P. Herold (GER), 21:32:45; 430km: J. P. Herold (GER), 22:04:45; 440km: J. P. Herold (GER), 22:36:45; 450km: J. P. Herold (GER), 23:08:45; 460km: J. P. Herold (GER), 23:40:45; 470km: J. P. Herold (GER), 24:12:45; 480km: J. P. Herold (GER), 24:44:45; 490km: J. P. Herold (GER), 25:16:45; 500km: J. P. Herold (GER), 25:48:45; 510km: J. P. Herold (GER), 26:20:45; 520km: J. P. Herold (GER), 26:52:45; 530km: J. P. Herold (GER), 27:24:45; 540km: J. P. Herold (GER), 27:56:45; 550km: J. P. Herold (GER), 28:28:45; 560km: J. P. Herold (GER), 29:00:45; 570km: J. P. Herold (GER), 29:32:45; 580km: J. P. Herold (GER), 30:04:45; 590km: J. P. Herold (GER), 30:36:45; 600km: J. P. Herold (GER), 31:08:45; 610km: J. P. Herold (GER), 31:40:45; 620km: J. P. Herold (GER), 32:12:45; 630km: J. P. Herold (GER), 32:44:45; 640km: J. P. Herold (GER), 33:16:45; 650km: J. P. Herold (GER), 33:48:45; 660km: J. P. Herold (GER), 34:20:45; 670km: J. P. Herold (GER), 34:52:45; 680km: J. P. Herold (GER), 35:24:45; 690km: J. P. Herold (GER), 35:56:45; 700km: J. P. Herold (GER), 36:28:45; 710km: J. P. Herold (GER), 37:00:45; 720km: J. P. Herold (GER), 37:32:45; 730km: J. P. Herold (GER), 38:04:45; 740km: J. P. Herold (GER), 38:36:45; 750km: J. P. 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SATURDAY JUNE 6 1992

Gooch hints he may tour India on day in which two balls are bowled in first Test

Edgbaston public lack light relief

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (second day of five, England won toss): Pakistan have scored three for no wicket against England.

GRAHAM Gooch tried manfully to lift the depression hanging over Edgbaston yesterday by dropping a firm hint that he will, after all, tour India this winter. But that, and two balls from Phil DeFreitas, seemed scant consolation to a crowd in restive mood, believing they had wasted a day and a lot of money.

Cricket has no antidote to the elements and can always look foolish on days when dank darkness never quite gives way to a downpour. Rain imposes resignation on the spectator; bad light generates resentment. Yesterday, to some degree, it was justified.

For all the goodwill claimed by the ground authorities' announcement that yesterday's tickets will be honoured on Monday, sections of the crowd would not be placated. Some booed, some shouted angrily, some threw cushions. It was hard to condemn them. This, undoubtedly, was a day to pity the poor punter.

Many, paying prices as high as £26 for a ticket, plus travelling expenses, had also taken a day off work, something they could ill afford on Monday, even if the last day promised to be worth watching. The way this first Cornhill Test match is going, precisely nowhere, that seems unlikely.

Officialdom cannot glibly be censured. They will feel that, with the refund regulations governing only entirely abandoned days, and weekend seats sold out, they could have done no more. They may also point out, quite rightly, that until recently there was no question of anybody getting their money back.

But in these days of aggressive competition for leisure time, gestures are not enough. Public relations matter ever more to the discerning spectator and, if he is to be told his money guarantees nothing, he at least wants to be sure it guarantees a commitment to play whenever possible. Those here yesterday will feel that was not the case.

The umpires, Barrie Meyer and Mervyn Kitchen, gave an unfortunately desultory impression. They were five minutes late emerging for a 1.15pm inspection, after which they came up with the curious time of 2.45pm for play to start. The ground had been uncoveted since before noon, no further drying work



False start: after two balls yesterday, the Pakistan batsmen, Ramiz Raja, left, and Aamer Sohail, head off, along with Alec Stewart

was done and both teams indulged in full-scale practice on the outfield, so it is fair to ask why the game did not get under way an hour earlier, when the light was perfectly good?

Almost inevitably, the cloud thickened again and the umpires discussed the light before a ball was bowled. Had they gone off then, refunds would have applied. Instead, DeFreitas's two balls, in the eyes of the cynical majority, have

achieved nothing but saving the Test and County Cricket Board £150,000.

Once back in the dressing-room, there was no prospect of a return to the murky world outside. The crowd went dejectedly home nourished only by the memory of Sohail dispatching his first ball in Test cricket majestically through extra cover for three.

Some did not even have this comfort: two men who had travelled from Wales, for instance. They decided to nip

into the toilet before setting down to the cricket, and never saw a ball bowled.

The central figure of the day was Gooch. In the morning, he confessed that, much against his initial instincts, he is "very tempted" to tour India. Keith Fletcher's advent as team manager is the most influential factor, for he has been Gooch's mentor throughout his career, but the post-Christmas itinerary, and a desire to keep the captaincy for the Ashes series next summer, may also persuade him.

Gooch then put his arm around Ian Salisbury's shoulders and broke the news the young leg-spin bowler had dreaded. He was not, after all, to make his Test debut. His place went to Mark Ramprakash. Gooch believing the extra batsman to be essential security in the changed conditions.

This could be thought negative, especially as he was limiting himself to four main bowlers when he won the toss and put Pakistan in, but it was still a predictable revision.

Larkins flourishes, page 30

England won toss

PAKISTAN

Aamer Sohail not out	3	6s	4s	Mins	Balls
Ramiz Raja not out	0	-	-	-	2
Total (no wkt, 2min, 0.2 overs)	3	-	-	-	1

Asif Mujtaba, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Ijazam-ul-Haq, Moin Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Aqib Javed and Ahsan-Rahman to bat.

BOWLING: DeFreitas 0.2-0-0-0.

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: First day: no play. Second day: start delayed until 2.45; bad light stopped play at 2.47; play abandoned at 5.48.

ENGLAND

G A Gooch, A J Stewart, G A Hick, R A Smith, A J Lamb, M R Ramprakash, I T Botham, C C Lewis, R C Russell, D R Pringle, P A J DeFreitas.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and B J Meyer.

TELEVISION: BBC1 (in Grandstand) 10.55-13.00; 13.40-14.55 and 14.55-15.55 (with news); 15.05-15.25; 15.35-15.55; 16.30-16.55; 22.20-23.30 (night).

RADIO: Radio 3 10.55-18.10 (approx); Radio 5 (during Sport on Five) 13.30-18.30.

WEATHER FORECAST: Unsettled.

England can take Curle and Sinton

FROM STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN MALMO

NEXT WEEK IN
THE TIMES

ANDY Sinton's fortnight of inordinate suspense ended yesterday when he was told that he will, after all, be in England's European championship squad. He and Keith Curle have been granted permission by UEFA to take the places of the injured John Barnes and Gary Stevens.

Their fate depended on a couple of telephone calls from Bern, the headquarters of Europe's governing body. They were made to the homes of two senior members of the European championship committee — Nikolay Ryashentsev, in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Egidius Braun, in Germany.

After being informed of the medical evidence supporting England's case, they agreed that compassion should be shown. Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, was also consulted but was not allowed to influence the decision taken by colleagues whose nations are not in England's group.

The committee was not due to assemble in Gothenburg until tomorrow, but it took urgent steps to resolve the matter.

For Sinton, especially, it was heartening news. He has recently been riding a roller-coaster of emotions, forced to wait while Barnes attempted to prove his fitness in Finland but yesterday Barnes was recovering from an operation on his Achilles tendon.

Sinton's disappointment at being one of the eight players omitted from the official party was countered by the joy of becoming a father for the first time. His hopes of going to Sweden rose again on Wed-

A 16-page colour guide to the European football championship and a chance for a reader to win a trip to England's match against Sweden in Stockholm.

nesday while he was watching a video of his baby son. A friend telephoned him to tell him of Barnes's severe injury in the match against Finland.

Later that night, having been invited into the BBC's studios, Sinton was led to believe by the England manager that he would be travelling with the squad to Sweden tomorrow only to hear within a few hours that Curle, the versatile Manchester City defender, was being considered as the prime candidate for stand-by duty.

Yesterday morning, however, Sinton was officially informed of UEFA's leniency by Lawrie McMenemy and asked to prepare to take part in a tournament he had planned to watch on television.

"There are often twists in life," he said, "and my heart and thoughts go out to John Barnes and Gary Stevens. It has been a waiting game for me. Graham Taylor had a dilemma, one that I understood. Now that it's all over, I am delighted."

Speaking in Lens where he had gone to watch France play the Netherlands, Taylor said: "Curle has a definite chance of playing against Denmark — we don't have anyone else in the right back position. It will be easier for him than Andy Sinton to come into the squad because he has a clearly defined role."

Hooligan loophole, page 31

FA Cup coverage to BBC and BSkyB

SATELLITE television's domination of English football was complete last night when BSkyB and the BBC signed a £72 million deal to cover FA Cup and England international matches for the next five years. It adds to their £304 million agreement to cover the Premier League.

BBC will have one live FA Cup tie on Sundays with one on BSkyB on Monday evenings. Sky will have one replay per round and although the Final remains live on BBC, each will show one

semi-final live. The BBC will continue its Saturday night highlights programme. Sky will also cover home international matches live with the BBC transmitting highlights. Trevor Phillips, the commercial director of the Football League, is to join the Football Association in a similar capacity.

Manchester United yesterday announced the biggest kit sponsorship deal in English football, Umbro agreeing to pay them a minimum of £9.6 million over six years.



Breaking it gently: Gooch consoles Salisbury

Faldo proves he is no nearly man

FROM MEL WEBB IN KILLARNEY

WELL, he did warn us. Nick Faldo said after his 66 in the first round of the Carrolls Irish Open that his golf was nearly awesome. Yesterday he shot 65 and had no hesitation in deleting the "nearly". "That was official, awesome," he said of his round that equalled the record for the Killarney course at Killarney Golf and Fishing Club. "I was just picking them off out there. Now all I need to do is stay in this mode, and who knows what might happen?"

Faldo has not won a tournament since he swept to the Irish title on this course a year ago, but he will have to break a leg if he is not to

claim total victory over this 250 acres of wondrous golfing country come tomorrow.

He has been increasingly happy with his game in the last few weeks, and for once statistics do tell the story. In his last 40 competitive rounds he is a cumulative 98 under par. On 131, 13 under par, he is surely going to win this one by an Irish mile, after finishes of fifth, tied third, second, eighth and fourth in his last five appearances in Europe.

He birdied the 1st, dropped a shot at the 6th, where he three-putted, and had a birdie on the 7th. Reaching the turn in 34, he

blazed his way back with a birdie on the 10th, an eagle three on the 11th and had further birdies on the 14th, 16th and 17th. It was majestic stuff.

Since he arrived here, Faldo has taken a little time off from his day job to indulge in his favourite hobby of fishing. On Tuesday he plucked four small brown trout from the waters of Lough Lein which lap the shores of the course.

He had another session yesterday. The way he has been performing in the last couple of days, he might have given the boatman a day off and walked out to the middle

of the lake. Now that would have been awesome.

EARLY LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): 121: P Faldo, 66; 65: 122: P Broadhurst, 66; 66: 123: G Montgomery, 72; 62: M Macdonald, 72; 62: W Whistler (SA), 68; 70: 124: B Langer (GER), 67; 72: C Mason, 67; 72: A Forsberg (SWE), 71; 68: 140: J Spence, 69; 71: P Davis (AUS), 71; 69: L Hughes, 71; 68: B Barnes, 68; 72: D J Russell, 68; 72: B Lunn, 68; 74: 141: A Sherburne, 74; 67: G J Turner (NZ), 72; 68: G Day (US), 71; 70: F McElroy (NZ), 73; 68: 142: P Butler (AUS), 73; 69: M O'Sullivan, 73; 69: 143: J Sewell, 68; 74: 144: E Ekin (GER), 70; 74: R Winchester, 75; 68: M Fow, 73; 71: B Marchbank, 70; 74: S McIlvenna, 72; 72: J Pym, 69; 75: C O'Connor, 71; 72: R Aherby (AUS), 70; 74: P Hall, 68; 75: 145: N US, 73; 72: T Thring (CAN), 77; 68: G Smith, 70; 75: C van der Vlist (GER), 75; 72: P Way, 74; 71: G J Brand, 72; 75: P Mitchell, 71, 74.

Curtis Cup, page 30

Muddled metric measure

RACE of the Year: already the title seems in the bag for the Leeds Poly ten-kilometre road race, which took place the other weekend. The first runner home was Brian Pickles, of Bingley Harriers, in the stunning time of 21min 37sec. That is not bad for a club runner — in fact, he beat the world record for the 10,000 metres track event by five-and-a-half minutes. (The record is 27:08.23, set by Arturo Barrios, of Mexico, in 1989).

But we Brits haven't really got metric worked out yet. Think of 10km as 6.2 miles and you should be all right. It was a thousand pities, then, that the course measurer managed to double-bluff himself: he laid out a course of 6.2 kilometres.

However, another Bingley Harrier, Tim Beckett, ran a bit more than that. He arrived at the finish believing he had won, but had the great misfortune to be given wrong directions by a race marshal. The marshal sent him spinning off around a field, completing an extra half-mile as he did so. Who, if anyone, won? The organisers fell back on the principle espoused by Alice in the caucus race, and gave both Pickles and Beckett a prize.

Munton's way

TIM Munton was called to England's cause this week: does Ted Dexter, chairman of the selectors, know that



SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Munton's career in first-class cricket was down to him? Readers of long memory will recall Lord Ted's half-backed, gimnickily find-a-fast bowler competition, in which strapping lads from all over England were invited to hurl thunderbolts in the nets. The dream was to find an unformed talent and mould him as England's spearhead. Well, seven years ago, Munton, a 17-year-old slinger in club cricket, was persuaded to fill in an entry form that was lying on the club bar.

Munton, who had played for Leicestershire Schools without attracting any interest from that county, had already resigned himself to the weekend game. He went to Edgbaston, slung a few and was duly passed over. However, the Warwickshire coach, Alan Oakman,

thought the lad showed promise. He gave Munton a couple of games with the second XI. Munton didn't do much, but he came good in a game against Zimbabwe. After that, he worked his way onward, but without Lord Ted's bit of nonsense, he would be a club cricket frightener to this day.

More fascinating facts from the 1991-2 football season. Simon Rice writes to point out that West Ham United, Notts County and Luton Town share the honour of becoming the first clubs to go down from the first division to the first division. Meanwhile, Peterborough United have achieved the unprecedented feat of going from the fourth division to the first in two seasons.

A match fee

CONGRATULATIONS to Big Merv, or Mervyn Hughes, the Australian stereotype, mate, no-worries purveyor, love object and fast bowler. He has just got married to a lady called Sue Kelly. Why were the massed media not permitted inside St Carthage's church in Melbourne? Macho, moustachioed Merv — the owner of the biggest badge of virility ever worn on an Australian face — had sold the story to Women's Day magazine.

Out of court

MEANWHILE, Guy Wagner writes to regale me with major, well-nigh Wagnerian achievements in cricket. He tells me of a match that took place (where else?) at the Holport real tennis festival between Holport CC and the Maitres Paurmiers CC, the cricket club of real tennis professionals. Mark Devine, batting for the Maitres, had a first-baller in the first innings, and in the second was run out without receiving a ball. Is this the first time a real tennis professional has been twice out for one ball at a festival match in Holport?

Male guilt

DID I know that at the Seoul Olympics, there were twice as many male as female competitors? Did I know that 92 per cent of all the coaches were men? Did I know that less than five per cent of space on the sports pages of British national newspapers was given to women's sport? These guilt-inducing stats are hurled in all directions by the Sports Council, apropos its recently published Women and Sport: A Consultation Document. Well this column hopes soon to bring big news about women's hammer throwing, the sport of the year. Let me add that there will be a Day for Ladies at Gosling Sport Park in Welwyn Garden City on June 21, which aims to bring back to athletics women who haven't run and jumped since school. "We want to conquer self-consciousness," Keith Snell, one of the organisers, said.

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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY JUNE 6 1992

Sowing the seeds of love

PAULA MUNCK

Richard Goodman
left a high-powered
life in New York to
tend a garden plot
in the south of
France. He tells
how the soil and
sun stole his heart

I had a garden in the south of France. It wasn't a big garden. Or a sumptuous one. Or a successful one, even, in the end. But that didn't matter. It was my garden, and I worked it hard and lovingly for the few months I had it — or it had me. This little piece of tan, clayey, French earth, nine metres by 13, was in fact the first garden I ever had. It taught me a great deal about myself. "Your garden will reveal yourself," the wise gardener Henry Mitchell writes. It did. It taught me that I am generous, impatient, hard-working, sentimental, boyish, stubborn and lazy.

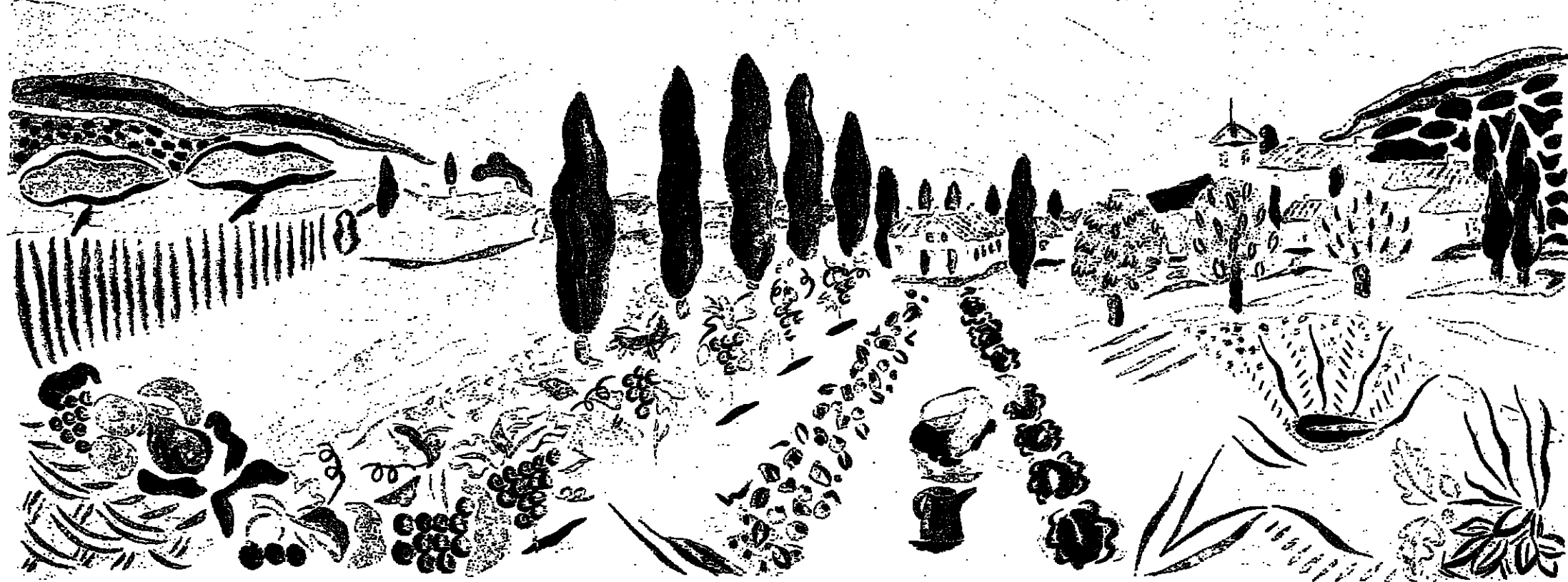
Having a garden also connected me to France in a way more profound and more lasting than any other way I can possibly think of. Part of me is still there. And always will be. Even though my friend Jules Favier has recently written to me from the village that "only one of the four boundaries of your garden remains standing", I am not upset. What does that matter? The garden is in my heart.

Having a garden gave me a place to go in my village every day, a task to perform and a responsibility. You cannot ask more of a land in which you are a stranger. To feel the French earth, clear it, plant seeds in it, despair over it and, ultimately, to take from it, that was a precious gift.

What makes a gardener is two things: the desire to garden and a piece of land with which to satisfy that desire. I never had a garden of my own until I was 43 years old and living in a little wine-making village in the south of France, near Vignion. All my life I had wanted to have a garden. The desire was always there, smouldering, ready to explode into being.

DON'T think it is so easy to make a garden too small, but it is very easy to make a garden too big. This did, and magnificently. After years had come with his tractor and cleared the land, ripping the earth apart and revealing all its lushness, I began to think about what to plant. There was still lots of work to be done — the raking and harrowing — before I could actually put my seeds and plants into the ground, but nevertheless I felt I could begin to make some decisions. I avoided any barrier to my arden fantasies with the simple solution of not excluding anything. Everything is permitted, nothing is forbidden. That was the motto of my garden in St Sébastien-Caisson.

Like Noah, I denied no living species entry into my garden. And, like Noah, I brought along at least two of each. At the sprawling nursery in the early village of Cadrière I wandered among the eye-boggling number of small green choices as if I were at an open, horticultural buffet. "What are those?" I asked the owner, a big, taciturn farmer who also happened to be the mayor of Cadrière.



full. I'd better go get another." All this by way of saying that ultimately I planted the following in the garden at St Sébastien: five varieties of lettuce. Three varieties of tomatoes. Zucchini. Eggplant. Basil. Parsley. String beans. Lima beans. Hot peppers. Green peppers. Red peppers. Yellow peppers. Carrots. Radishes. Melons. Beets. Cabbage. Chives. And two kinds of flowers, one of which was the dwarf sunflower. And not just a few of each plant. An abundance. As I look back, I know I should have practised a kind of gardening birth control. But I didn't. I was delirious.

As I write this, it is raining outside. It reminds me of the day in late April — far too early — when I put the first plants into my garden. It was a cool, grey, misty day, one of those damp days when every plant and shrub looks well fed and full of capacity, with water cascading off bent broad leaves so green, so clear and forceful in the dull light. Such watery days uplift a gardener's spirit.

Iggy and I drove our car from the village and, just past the little bridge, turned off the road on to the lane that ran next to the vineyard. In the back of the car was a boxful of plants. I had been told by the villagers that it was too early to plant anything. But I couldn't wait. I had to put something into the earth, into my earth.

We walked over to the bank. The clayey earth gave way under our feet. We walked down the bank and crossed the stream. Then we walked to the far side, climbed it, and stepped on to the land. The only sound, aside from our mucky footsteps and spoken words, was the dripping of water from leaf to leaf in the small trees and bushes that bordered the land, a soft, slapping sonata. There was the cleared land before me, a groomed virgin piece of earth, fertile and ready. It was a peaceful moment, a perfect time to work.

I reached down into the box and picked up an eggplant. It was skinny and small, with just one or two leaves, not exactly inspiring. I got to my knees and made a small hole by opening the earth with my hand shovel. The mist was gathering in my hair like a spider's web and some of it was flowing off my eyebrows and down my cheeks. I placed the plant in the hole. It leaned slightly to its side.

"Here," I said to Iggy, giving her the hand shovel. "You do the honours." She took off her gloves. She bent down, a lovely Dutch girl who, like most others from her nation, has plants and flowers in her blood. She placed the earth around the plant deftly, like the sure, natural gardener she was. She pulled back, regarded the little plant, and then made several small but crucial adjustments to the earth with her fingers. Watching her work, I felt supremely confident about the plant's future.

We both looked at the thin green plant, skinny and frail as a premature baby. It was now part of our earth, the beginning of our garden. I felt a mixture of pride and responsibility.

"It looks great," I said to Iggy. "It looks wonderful." We planted the rest of the plants, one by one, and left them there, resting in their new earth, soon to be drenched by the rain. I had a garden now.

ALL THE while I felt protective towards my plants, but once they began producing their ripe fruit, my attitude changed. In a sense, my job was done. I had given, and now I was ready to receive. Gardening is, in its perfect state, a true give-and-take relationship. This final hour produced moments of great glory. I remember the time when I could count on something being ripe and ready to pick every day. And when I could get up in the morning knowing that after I went to the garden I would have something to bring to Iggy. That was a wonderful feeling. It was primitive, and it went very deep. It wasn't stronger than the urge to defend what was mine, but in a sense it was more profound, a calm, masculine instinct, resonating from my soul.

I remember, early on in the gathering process, returning from the garden one morning with a basketful of vegetables — lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, zucchini, even a small melon. Driving back to the village, I glanced over at the many-coloured bounty from time to time, just for pleasure. That glance was the reward of months of labour.

When I came home, Iggy had a cup of coffee for me and a piece of fresh, buttered bread. I showed her the vegetables, many still caked with damp earth. "Oh, great!" she said, her eyes wide with excitement. She smiled her open, sunny smile and came to me, putting her arms around my sweaty shoulders. I sat down and took a sip of the coffee. I felt proud. I was a provider.

I HAVE a colour photograph of myself on my wall in New York that was taken by a friend. I am in our house in St Sébastien, in the kitchen. The sunlight, even indoors, is intense, rich. I am holding a head of lettuce in my hand. I am holding it before me, and I am looking at it and smiling. It is lettuce I have grown myself, in my own garden. It is one of those soft, densely packed heads, the leaves of which you find in salads in most bistros in France.

We probably ate it with our lunch that day — at least, I hope we did — with a little olive oil, and perhaps with some slices of tomato, bleeding with summer, also taken from the garden. And since the photograph was taken by a friend, it's certain that he, and maybe some others, shared that meal with us, seated around our long wooden table, the windows thrown open, letting the summer air stream in. Wine, bread, cheese, water, meat, salad before us all.

French Dirt by Richard Goodman (Pavilion Books, £10.99).

'To feel the earth, plant seeds in it, despair over it and then take from it was a precious gift'

Richard Goodman



EVERYTHING else about my garden was good and sometimes even thrilling, but this was what gardening was: the soft sound of the shovel thrusting and dislodging the earth. Feeling the warmth of the sun on my shoulders. The earth against my knees. Savouring the undisturbed hours of solitary work. I didn't need to speak. I didn't need to worry about opinions or politics. I didn't need to worry about anything. I slowly moved down a row, attending to each plant thoroughly, pushing my shovel in, lifting up the French soil, getting the backs of my hands dirty, sweating, wiping the drops from my eyes. Working. I was there for one simple reason: to help make things grow.

I would usually go to the garden twice a day. Once in the early morning to weed and rake and to do any other work that needed to be done. And once in the evening to water. I left home anywhere from 6.30 to 7.30am, just when the

down, go on. My God, I thought. At the end of the morning, when the sun's force had made it too hot to work any more, it was time to go. It was hard to leave the garden sometimes, especially later in the summer when things really began to grow. Then sometimes I stayed on, foolishly, in the heat, working away, once or twice nearly fainting in the furious noon sun. But it was also satisfying to stand back at the edge of the garden and look at the good work I had done, to see how clear the land looked around the plants that had been weeded and how gratefully fresh turned earth looked around a row of plants. They had been tended.

I would take my pail and shovel and whatever other equipment I had and go back to the car. It was fine, driving back to St Sébastien after a morning's work in the garden, my arm muscles throbbing a bit, my face beaming from the sun, the window open. I was dirty. I was tired. I was sweaty. I was happy.

NEXT WEEK

ALLEZ A PIED

'France is the ideal country for the walker. In nearly 20 years of walking I have never met the slightest hostility from a French farmer. In Britain I meet hostility almost every weekend.' In Life & Times, Robin Neillands on France as hiker's heaven.

TRAVEL LIGHT

The SeaCat catamaran can cross the Channel in 60 minutes on Hoverspeed's new Folkestone-Boulogne route. From next Monday Times readers have the chance of half-price return SeaCat fares with three Passport to France tokens.

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Music Festival at Sea Programme

Ensembles	Flute
English Chamber Orchestra	Irene Grafenauer
James Judd, Conductor	Clarinet
Kremer Quartet	Emma Johnson
Piano	Violin
Evgeny Kissin	Gidon Kremer
Oleg Maisenberg	Hagai Shaham
Tatiana Nikolaeva	Mezzo-soprano
Jean-Bernard Pommier	Maxim Vengerov
Viola	Margarita Zimmernmann
Yuri Bashmet	Tenor
Cello	Gary Lakes
Clemens Hagen	Lecturers
Trumpet	John Amis
Maurice Andre	Andre Tubeuf

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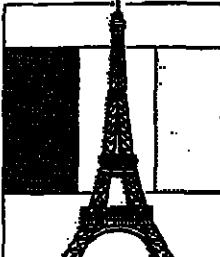
10 Frederick Close, Stanhope Place, London W2 2HD

FOOD AND DRINK, PAGES 6,7



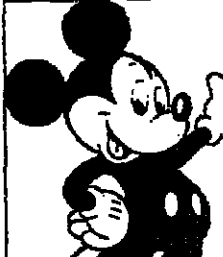
French memories to share, food to cook, restaurants to visit, croissants to fill, wine to buy — and hotels to enjoy half-price

PARIS GUIDE, PAGE 8



Join the ghosts of Sartre and Hemingway at a quintessential Parisian café — or feed your fantasies in the food shops and markets

GETTING AWAY, PAGES 10,11



Mickey and his pals are a new part of the French experience. Libby Purves takes her family to sample Euro Disney

Note: Information can change following publication. The international dialling code for France is 010 33 followed by the eight digit number. Paris City and Greater Paris telephone numbers should be prefixed with 1.

THEATRE

LES ATRIDES: One of the highlights of France's theatre season will be the completion of *Les Atrides*, Théâtre du Soleil's four-play cycle telling the tragic saga of the House of Atreus. Directed by Ariane Mnouchkine, it comprises *Agamemnon*, *Les Choéphores* and *Le Euménides* by Aeschylus. Mnouchkine continues to draw her inspiration from Asian theatre traditions and a notable feature of this cycle is the Indian-style dance used for the chorus, with a specially composed score by Jean-Jacques Lemêtre. La Cartoucherie de Vincennes, route du Champ de Manoeuvre, Paris (43.74.24.08), (Toulouse, June 9-20; Montpellier, June 27-July 5; Bordeaux, July 16-22, then back to Paris at the Cartoucherie from October-December.)



Radical: Anatoli Vasiliev, director of *Bal Masqué*

BAL MASQUÉ: Anyone who hasn't visited the Comédie Française for a few years may be in for a surprise. Jacques Lassalle, the new artistic director, continues the radical shake-up started by his predecessor, Antoine Vitez. His boldest move is a production of Lermontov's *Bal Masqué* directed by one of Russia's most controversial directors, Anatoli Vasiliev. The play, written in 1835, is one of three romantic dramas Lermontov wrote before he died at 27 after a torrid life of duels and exile. With more than a nod towards Shakespeare and Byron, it is the tragedy of a man who murders the wife he adores because he suspects her of infidelity. Comédie Française, 1 place Colette, Paris (40.15.00.15), until July 30.

RARE MOULIERE: Jacques Lassalle will direct two rarely performed Molière plays. *La Contesse d'Escarbagnas* satirises provincial pretensions when a woman of a certain age believes she has three suitors but two turn out to be deceiving her. *George Dandin* centres on a rich farmer married to a girl who is noble but poor. But she has no intention of living in the countryside and promptly encourages the advances of the first young gallant she meets. Comédie Française (as above), until the end of July, then September-December.

TOP TEN FILMS SHOWING IN PARIS:

- 1 *Basic Instinct*.....(Paul Verhoeven)
- 2 *The Player*.....(Robert Altman)
- 3 *Howard's End*.....(James Ivory)
- 4 *Under Suspicion*.....(Simon Moore)
- 5 *Le Retour de Cassanova*.....(Edouard Grynberg)
- 6 *Indochine*.....(Régis Wargnier)
- 7 *Confessions d'un barjo*.....(Gérôme Boirin)
- 8 *Freejack*.....(Geoff Murphy)
- 9 *Opening Night*.....(John Cassavetes)
- 10 *La Sentinelle*.....(Arnaud Desplechin)

TOP TEN BEST-SELLING PAPERBACKS IN FRANCE

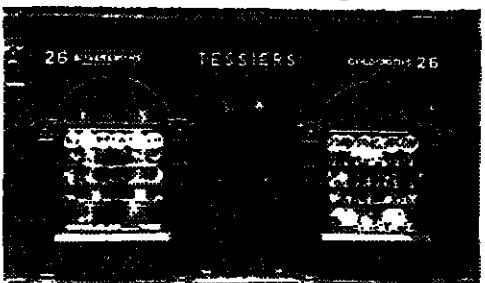
- 1 *Les Compagnons D'Éternité* by Jeanne Bourin (François Bourin)
- 2 *Étiologie Errante* by J.M.G. Le Clezio (Gallimard)
- 3 *American Psycho* by Bret Easton Ellis (Salvy)
- 4 *Prends Garde Au Loup* by Yann Queffelec (Julliard)
- 5 *L'Affaire Toutankhamon* by Christian Jacq (Grass)

Non Fiction

- 1 *Taut et Plus* by François de Closets (Grasset/Seuil)
- 2 *L'Avenir Dure Longtemps* by Louis Althusser (Stock)
- 3 *Comme Un Roman* by Daniel Pennac (Gallimard)
- 4 *Le Voile Noir* by Yann Dupuy (Seuil)
- 5 *La Controverse de Valladolid* by J.C. Canivère (Le Pré-aux-Clercs)

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LA NUIT DES ROIS: Jérôme Savary unleashes his anarchic imagination on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Savary made his reputation as director of *Le Grand Magique* and it is no surprise to find him swamping Shakespeare's delicate comedy with his burlesque titillation, even to the extent of writing in the odd belly dancer, striptease and Adonis in a G-string. Théâtre National de Chaillot, 1 place du Trocadéro, Paris (47.27.81.15), until June 20.

SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN SEASON: Under the direction of Luis Pasqual, the Odéon, Théâtre de l'Europe will feature this autumn a Spanish and Latin American season. Most of the productions will be by visiting companies, including the Catalan group, Els Comediants in *Mediterranean* (September), an exuberant show about the inspiration the sea has provided for countless poems, legends, songs — and theatrical spectacles. Also in September will be *Lope de Aguirre*, *Tráidor* by the contemporary Spanish writer, José Sancha Sinistera. It consists of monologues by nine characters showing the divergence of opinion on the controversial Spanish Conquistador, Aguirre. Continuing the theme of the Spanish colonisation of America, Els Joglars present *Yo Yengo un Tio en America*, Albert Boadella's contribution towards the Columbus quinquennial celebrations which intelligently criticises the Conquistadors. Luis Pasqual himself rounds off the season with *Lope de Vega's Le Chevalier d'Olmedo* (November-December), a "cloak-and-dagger" play of the Spanish Golden Age, in a new French translation by the poet Zeno Bianchi. This production will have its premiere at the Festival d'Avignon, July 10.

Théâtre de l'Europe Odéon, 1 place Paul Claudel, Paris (43.25.70.32).

LEGENDES DE LA FORET VIENNOISE: André Engel directs Odon von Horvath's *Légendes de la forêt viennoise*. It contrasts the sentimentality of the Viennese operettas with the darker cruelty of Austria in the early 1930s. Maison des Arts et de la Culture, Créteil, outskirts of Paris (49.80.90.50), October-November.

ON S'AMAIT TROP POUR SE VOIR TOUTS LES JOURS: Anyone looking for something more experimental might try Ballatum Theatre's devised production of *We loved each other too much to see each other every day*. Under Guy Allouchère's direction the company uses improvisation, dance and physical theatre to explore the violence and humour in human relationships. Théâtre 71, Centre d'Action Culturelle de Malakoff, Malakoff, Paris (46.55.43.45), until June 20.

GREEK: Fans of Steven Berkoff can see his play *Greek* directed by Jorge Lavelli. Berkoff's mixture of raw aggression and grim humour in his retelling of the Oedipus myth may be well suited to Lavelli's approach: he last did *Midsummer Night's Dream* as an Argentinian tango. Théâtre National de la Colline, 15 rue Malte-Brun, Paris (43.66.43.60), until June 21.



Shaking up Shakespeare: Maxime Lombard and Natalia Dombcheva starring in *La Nuit des Rois* (see Theatre)

LA CERISIERE: Chekhov's play (*The Cherry Orchard*) will be directed by Stéphane Braunschweig for the Centre Dramatique National de Gennevilliers in October. A former student of Antoine Vitez, Braunschweig, who is not yet 30, is noted for the stark intensity of his productions, especially those of his own company Theatre Machine. Braunschweig is not inhibited about putting his own stamp on a play, and in this production he gives Chekhov an epilogue of four scenes from Brecht's *Mother Courage*. Théâtre de Gennevilliers, 41 avenue des Grésillons, Gennevilliers, Paris (47.93.26.30).

L'ÉGLISE: Louis-Ferdinand Céline's play is about a doctor who travels the world only to return to the suburbs of Paris where he lives out a bitter life among his patients. It is directed by Jean-Louis Martinelli (September 29-October 25). Also at the Théâtre des Amandiers is *Molly Bloom*, adapted from James Joyce, directed by Jean-Michel Dupuis and starring Hélène Vincent. (November 3-29).

LES AMANDIERS: 7 avenue Pablo-Picasso, Nanterre, Paris (47.21.18.81/47.21.22.25).

LA DISPUTE: In one of Marivaux's last plays two aristocrats discuss whether it is men or women who are the first to give in to infidelity. To answer the question an elaborate experiment has been set up: four young people have been brought up out from all forms of society and suddenly they are unleashed on each other. Stanislas Nordy directs. Théâtre Gérard-Philippes, 59 boulevard Jules-César, Saint-Denis, Paris (42.43.17.17), November 18-December 13.

DANCE

PARIS OPERA BALLET: In June, the company is in residence at its home theatre, the Garnier, with a mixed bill including John Neumeier's ballet about Nijinsky, *Vermeer*, Roland Petit's popular *Camille*, and Harald Landier's dazzling virtuoso display piece, *Études*. In July, the Paris Opera Ballet moves to the Bastille where, on July 6, it unveils a new *Swan Lake*, based on Vladimir Bourmeister's 1960 production. On Tuesday Patrick Dupond and the Stars of the Paris Opera Ballet perform one night at the Opéra de Toulon.

Opéra de Paris Garnier: 8 rue Scribe (47.42.53.71), until June 30.

Opéra de Paris-Bastille: 120 rue de Lyon (44.73.13.00), July 6-25.

MONTEPELLIER INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL: This year's theme is contemporary and traditional dance in the Mediterranean region with the promise of a new work by the Frankfurt-based American William Forsythe, considered to be one of the hottest choreographers around. Information: 7 boulevard Henry IV, 34000 Montpellier (67.61.11.20), June 24-July 11.

CHATEAUVALLON DANCE FESTIVAL: This festival plays host to some of the top companies as well as introducing many young choreographers to France and Europe. Performances are held in an open-air amphitheatre. Information: Chateaufallon 94.65.22.70, July 7-31.

LYON FIFTY DANCE BIENNIAL: This year's biennial takes its cue from the Olympics and Expo with a Spanish theme, aiming to present the full range of Spanish dance. Those interested in historical dance will find much here for them: the spectacular productions of 17th-century baroque dancing and traditional Spanish dancing. Also featured are the traditional dances of the large provinces and flamenco. The biennial promises ten premieres introducing new talents. Information: Maison de Lyon, place Bellecour 690002, Lyon (72.40.26.26), September 12-October 4.

PINA BAUSCH TANZTHEATER WUPPERTAL: Pina Bausch is possibly the most influential choreographer in European contemporary dance and her work always elicits a strong response — positive or negative — from audiences. She brings her company to the Edinburgh Festival in August but before then has a season in Paris. Théâtre de la Ville, 16 quai de Gèvres (48.87.54.42), June 23-July 4.

MUSIC

OPERA

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: Arnold Osmann, responsible for an acclaimed period-instrument Mozart cycle from Nottingham conducts the Bastille's rather larger forces in a revival of the old Palais Garnier production. The cast includes Margaret Price as the Countess (June 9, 11, 13, 25). Tom Krause as the Count and Ferruccio Furlanetto as Figaro (June 20, 23, 25).

Opéra de Paris-Bastille: 120 rue de Lyon (44.73.13.00), June 9, 11, 13, 20, 23, 25.

OTELLO: The production by Romanian-born Petrica Ionescu met with a mixed response when it was new, but the cast is strong enough to carry the day. Plácido Domingo, the definitive incarnation of this most challenging of tenor roles, sings two performances as Othello (June 24, 30), with the reliable Vladimir Atlantov singing the remainder. Justino Diaz is a musical if rather arch lingo. American soprano Kallen Espinosa as Desdemona. The Bastille's music director, Myung Whun Chung, conducts.

Opéra de Paris-Bastille (as above), June 28, 24, 27, 30.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: The Opéra de Paris uses its former — and many would argue more congenial — home for these performances of Dario Fo's Netherlands Opera production of Rossini's comic masterpiece. Among the cast are Gino Quilico as Figaro (except June 25), Ferruccio Furlanetto as Don Basilio (June 17, 28, July 1, 3, 5, 7), and Jennifer Lamore as Rosina (June 11, 13, 21, 28, July 5, 7). Marcello Viotti conducts (except June 28, July 5).

Opéra de Paris Garnier: 8 rue Scribe (47.42.53.71), June 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 28, July 1, 3, 5, 7.

COSI' FAN TUTTE: The strength of the offerings from the mal Châtelet show that the unloved Bastille's claims for the pole position in French musical life are by no means unchallenged. John Eliot Gardiner continues his international concert cycle with this co-production between the Châtelet and Lisbon's Teatro Nacional San Carlos; in this case the conductor also directs. The English Baroque Soloists and the Monteverdi Choir support a cast of European unity, quantity featuring the blue and yellow stars of the European flag on the cover of their latest album, 1992 — *The Love Album*. But are they Francophiles? Audiences in Calais can judge for themselves.

Festival de Musique, Calais (tickets available from The Way Ahead in the UK: 0733 60075), July 11.

JAZZ

PAUL MOTIAN: The fusion jazz and pioneer drummer appears in a trio including one of America's most highly-rated guitarists, Bill Frisell. New Morning is in any case an essential spot for the enthusiasts to check out: there are significant names on almost every night. Watch out too for guitarist John McLaughlin with showman percussionist, Tlilok Gurtu, June 15-17. New Morning, rue des Petites Écuries, Paris (45.23.51.41), July 25.

JOE ZAWINUL SYNDICATE: The co-founder of Weather Report fronts his own band, providing cutting edge contemporary music of a calibre which has impressed the jazz fraternity and created a new audience for his brand of world music. New Morning (as above), July 1, 2, 9pm. Also appearing with Salif Keita at La Grande Parade du Jazz/JVC, Nice (93.71.89.60), July 17, 18 (see Rock).

GILBERTO GIL: The Latin jazz master from Brazil is well-known for his supremely accomplished guitar music combining the most positive aspects of Afro-Bahian cultural fusion with rock, funk, reggae and even ballad forms. Festival de Vannes, Brittany (97.47.47.30 or 97.47.24.47), July 24. Festival d'Antibes, Juan Les Pins, Antibes (93.33.95.64), July 16.

WYNTON MARSALIS SEPTET: The 30-year-old trumpet virtuoso continues to live up to his early promise — he joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers a few days before his 18th birthday. These days he is most interested in exploring the music of Duke Ellington, but he is also a classical player. Jazz à Vienne, Théâtre Antique, Vienne (74.53.60.30), July 3. La Grande Halle, La Villette (40.03.39.03), July 8. La Grande Parade du Jazz/JVC, Nice (as above), July 19, 20.

TO DIZ WITH LOVE: Freddie Hubbard, James Moody, Slide Hampton and other greats who originally teamed up to celebrate Dizy Gillespie's 75th birthday, but were thwarted by his illness, are back together to pay tribute to him and toast him in his — we hope — temporary absence. La Grande Parade du Jazz/JVC, Nice (as above), July 12. Jazz compiled with the help of Eurofile, London (081-876 1404)

resident of Paris, where her music combining African rhythms and Western funk has won her many fans. Festival de Froul, Marseille (91.54.91.11), June 25. Centre Culturelle, Grenoble (91.95.94.52), June 26. Francofolies Festival, La Rochelle (Paris 48.78.77.77), July 14. Grande Parade du Jazz/JVC, Nice (as above), July 19. Festival de Vans, Marseille (42.28.87.01), August 7. Les Arènes Festival, Orange (90.51.83.83), August 15.



African rhythms singer Angélique Kidjo on tour

NIRVANA: These raw rockers have been so successful that even non-devotees of their "grunge" style have had to sit up and take notice. In the first week of 1992 the guitar band's *Nevermind* album knocked Michael Jackson's *Dangerous* off the Billboard No 1 spot, and the group is still on a high having stolen the show from The Red Hot Chili Peppers at the latter's New Year show in San Francisco. Zénith, Paris (46.07.99.00), June 24.

BOB DYLAN: The mercurial singer/songwriter is not playing in England this summer, so Dunkirk could be your nearest alternative. Mr Tambourine Man kicks off an event called the Festival de la Côte d'Opale, an exciting rock and jazz jamboree spread among coastal towns from Dunkirk to Berck and running until July 26. Festival de la Côte d'Opale, Dunkirk (21.30.40.33), June 30.

CARTER USM: One of those love'em or hate'em bands, these noisy, controversial rockers recently decided to flirt with the idea of European unity, quantity featuring the blue and yellow stars of the European flag on the cover of their latest album, 1992 — *The Love Album*. But are they Francophiles? Audiences in Calais can judge for themselves.

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FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUE DE CHAMBERE, MONTAUBAN: The picturesque town, built on several levels above the Mediterranean, enjoys a chamber music festival with visits from the pianist Tatiana Nicolson, the Lucarne Festival Strings, the Beaux-Arts Trio and the young Russian virtuoso pianist, Evgeny Kissin. Palais de l'Europe, ave Boyer, BP111, 06503 Menton (93.57.57.00, fax 93.55.82.22), August 3-31.

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL D'ART LYRIQUE ET DE MUSIQUE D'AXE-EN-PROVENCE: A lavender-scented festival in the heart of Provence, with opera in the open-air courtyard of the Archbishop's Palace and recitals in the cloister-filled Romanesque cloister of the Cathédrale de Saint-Sauveur. This year sees Don Giovanni, with the Swedish soprano Hillevi Martinpelto and the English Chamber Orchestra; Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*; and an all-British Britten *Midsummer Night's Dream*, with cast including James Bowman and Ulrik Watson. Bureau du Festival, place de l'ancien Archevêché, F-13100 Aix (42.17.34.34, fax 42.96.12.61), July 13-31.

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE MUSIQUE BAROQUE ET CLASSIQUE, BEAUNE: At the heart of the Burgundy wine region, this seat of the Dukes of Burgundy, with its Flemish-inspired architecture, hosts a feast of early music in many fine venues. The Tavernier Consort gives a concert performance of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in the Cour des Hospices. Sigiswald Kuijken turns to Bach motets in the Basilique Notre-Dame; and there are midday concerts in the Théâtre Municipal. Office du Tourisme, rue de Thial Dieu, 21200 Beaune (80.22.24.51, fax 80.24.06.85), June 27-July 19.

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE MUSIQUE DE BESANCON: The capital of Franche Comté, surrounded by wooded hills and overshadowed by its citadel, is host to a major festival of orchestral and chamber music which also takes in a Young Conductors Competition. This year sees visits from the St Petersburg Philharmonic under Jansons, Pascal Doyon, Ton Koopman, The Tallis Scholars, the Vogler Quartet, Hugues Cuénod and Martha Argerich help celebrate the 80th anniversary of Klara Magaloff. Festival de Musique, 2d rue Senbert, 25000 Besançon (81.80.73.26, fax 81.80.46.36), September 4-18.

MUSIC & REMPARTS: A new venture in trans-channel cultural life, as its name implies. While most of the events of this festival, many involving British musicians, will be staged within the ramparts of the old grey city of Boulogne, there will also be a concert of music setting the poems of Ted Hughes in Lympne Castle, Hythe tonight, and a brass and choral concert in Canterbury Cathedral next Saturday. Weekend packages available. Office de Tourisme, quai de la Poste, 62200 Boulogne-sur-mer (21.31.68.38, fax 21.33.81.09), June 3-21.

FESTIVAL DE CARPENTRAS: Darius Milhaud's opera *bourgeoise*, *Esther de Carpentras*, finds home ground in an edict festival in the Vaucluse birthplace of the humbug. An evening of women writers and composers is matched by a cycle of Marguerite Yourcenar readings: chamber music, dance and jazz fill out an enterprising programme. Festival de Carpentras, La Charité, 77 rue Cottier, BP133, 84204 Carpentras (90.63.46.35, fax 90.60.52.85), July 8-August 7.

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE COLMAR: The violinist Vladimir Spivakov is artistic director of an increasingly prestigious festival in this beautiful Alsace town. This year is dedicated to the memory of Vladimir Horowitz, with performances from the Russian State Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Virtuosi, Evgeni Kissin, Barry Douglas. Master classes, Russian tea concerts and exhibitions add to the attractions of this festival. Festival International de Colmar, Office de Tourisme, 4 rue des Unterlinden, 6800 Colmar (89.41.02.25, fax 89.41.34.13), July 3-14.

FESTIVAL DU COMMINGES: Comminges, nestling in the shadow of the Pyrenees, southwest of Toulouse, is a region rich in medieval architecture and history. The 11th-century Basilica Saint-Just de Valcabrère and the renaissance Cathedral of Saint-Bertrand de Comminges provide the venues for a festival focusing on organ, vocal and chamber music. Festival du Comminges, 31260 Madesmou-Salart (61.95.81.25), July 14-August 28.

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FESTIVAL DE RADIO FRANCE ET MONTEPELLIER: The capital of Languedoc-Roussillon, with its fine wines and uncultured skies, is made for a festival: Le Corum hosts productions of *Aida*, Puccini's *Edgar and Franchetti*, the Cour Jacques Coeur sees performances of Sacchini's *Oedipe à Colone*, Handel's *Jephtha* and orchestral concerts and the Chateau d'O has both jazz and Wagner. Also fringe concerts in the region of l'Aude, l'Hérault and le Gard. Le Corum, BP9214, 34043 Montpellier Cedex (67.61.66.81, fax 67.61.66.82), July 13-August 1.

FESTIVAL DE MONTAUBAN: Stéphane Grappelli (July 8) and pianist Monty Alexander (July 10) are among the highlights at this beautifully situated jazz festival. Festival de Montauban, 2 rue du Collège, 82000, Montauban (63.63.60.60), July 8-11.

EXHIBITIONS

SIMA: An important cultural link between France and Czechoslovakia, Joseph Sima came to Paris in 1921, when he was 30, and quickly integrated himself into the Ecole de Paris, especially the Surrealist section. He was important in the circle of the avant-garde magazine *Le Grand Jeu* (subject of an annexed exhibition) and during his career went through almost every available style from Realism to Cubism to Geometrical Abstraction to Surrealism. Hard to see a connecting thread, but each phase has its charms. Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 11 av du Président Wilson, Paris (40.70.11.10), until June 21.

CLODION: Usually accounted a sort of Fragonard of sculpture, all fun and flourish and lightly eroticism, Clodion is shown in this retrospective to have had his deeper moments, able to have produced monumental full-length portrait statues. But his heart seems to have been in the light fantastic, and that was certainly the aspect of his work which impressed his many imitators, also in evidence here. Musée du Louvre (Hall Napoléon), rue de Rivoli, Paris (40.20.51.51), until June 29.



A detail from *Pleureuse* at the Louvre's Clodion show

DU TAGE A LA MER DE CHINE: Paris, with the aid of Portugal, has produced a show concerning Portugal's successful travels to the Far East, and their cultural repercussions during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Stunning porcelains and golden brocades and metalwork. Musée National des Arts Asiatiques, 6 place d'Iéna, Paris (47.23.61.65), until August 31.

LES VIKINGS: What the Vikings lacked in artistic finesse they make up for in modern exhibitionism in sheer weight of gold. This show is heavy on the "treasures" aspect, but also gives an interesting insight into the everyday life of the Vikings. Grand Palais, 3 ave du Général Eisenhower, Paris (45.13.17.17), until July 12.

JOSEPH HECHT: One of the lesser-known 20th-century masters of line-engraving, Hecht (1891-1951) was born in Poland but spent most of his life in France. He specialised in animals, pictured with an almost oriental directness and economy which gives his engravings a certain Deco elegance. Musée de Gravelines, Arsenal de Gravelines (28.2

Ambridge awash in Burgundy

Life's a-changing down in Ambridge, reports Lynne Truss. They've gone all sort of Frenchified. Just 'ark at 'em ...

THE first thing Ambridge knew about its French connection was one June morning when Mike Tucker, leaving Willow Farm early for his dawn milk round, discovered that under Betty's neatly written gatepost sign "POTATOES", somebody had added the words "TWINNED WITH POMMES DE TERRE". "Typical!" he yelled (though it was not, and studied the sign carefully with his one good eye).

This French thing was getting out of hand, he concluded. Ever since Eddie Grundy's mysterious Auntie Hilda had taken to her supposed deathbed in Aberdeen (leading Eddie to expect an inheritance), Clarrie had been besotted with the idea of a move to France. Grange Farm had become a little French colony, smelling of dark onion soup and resounding to the rhythms of Linguaphone. A community for whom the last word in far-fung exoticism had previously been Felpersham had started mentioning France with bewildering frequency. And French-bread pizzas had become a staple at The Bull.

Mike was stumped. Surely no one in The Archers office had really taken this Let's Parler Français stuff seriously? After all, the listeners had not. In their hundreds of thousands they had failed to write outraged letters to the BBC, demanding that the Grundys be saved from French exile. Trusting to their own good sense (as Archers listeners so often do) they simply knew in their bones that Joe Grundy would never consent to live in a country where (as Billy Wilder says) the money falls apart in your hands but you can't tear the toilet paper. "All a blummin' fuss about nothing," Mike huffed, with his usual good cheer, and popped a Valium.

"AH, there you are, Caroline," Robin said, a few hours later, on entering the vicarage dining room. "Oh, and Marjorie, I didn't see you. And Jill, good heavens, here you are, too." (In common with all Archers characters, Robin was unable to spot everybody present on first entering a room.) "Oh, and Phil. Golly, there's Shula too. Quite a crowd. Hello Nelson, long time no see."

"Can we get on now, Robin?" Marjorie asked, with an unnecessary tinge of impatience. "If it's

RADIO

nothing important, I said I would take my girls to the cinema in Felpersham this afternoon. In honour of the recent twinning with Marseilles, there are some particularly entertaining X-certificate French films showing on Thursday afternoons."

"Oh, but it is important, Marjorie. Very important indeed. You know the dendrochronologist who has been working on the old timbers under the church floor ..."

"Remind me, dendrochronology is the study of tree rings, isn't it?" Jill Archer interjected helpfully (to save the listener from grappling with the *Shorter OED*).

"Yes, that's right. Well, it seems that the dendrochronologist (and I'll say it again because it's such a nice word), the dendrochronologist has discovered evidence under the floor of St Stephen's which proves that the whole of Ambridge actually belongs to ancient Burgundy. You know, like in *Passport to Pimlico*."

"What?" Phil spluttered, characteristically.

"I don't like the sound of that," Uncle Tom declared.

Elizabeth had no right," Shula wailed, rocking an embroidered bolster in her arms. "I would have loved the baby, she could have given it to me." And she ran out of the room, amid funny looks.

"I'm afraid it's true, Phil," Robin continued, when everyone had settled down again. "We are all technically French — Burgundians — and there's a strong possibility that the name Grundy is a corruption of the name of our ancient rulers. I'm surprised you didn't have an inkling of it, Mr. Forrest. We think that your wife, Pru, was on to the story when she was suddenly felled by that stroke of hers. It is quite clear that she had been looking under the floor when the timbers were first exposed, because the archaeologists found among the ancient seals and documents a recent pot of home-made jam and a Victoria sponge with a rose on it."

"So my Pru knew all along?" Tom whispered.

"Obviously so, Tom. I'm sorry. My theory is that since the French plot-line was not quite ready, she was silenced."

"Poor Pru," Jill said, with an audible shudder.



Continental: since Eddie and Clarrie took up with France, Grange Farm has smelt of onion soup and resounded to Linguaphone

"And now Clarrie is the only one among us with a French title, a cassette of Roch Voisine (whoever he is), a clove of garlic and an authentic canembert. I honestly wish those timbers had never been uncovered."

"Oh Phil," Jill gasped. "What are we going to do?"

"Je ne sais pas," Phil said, raising his voice in a well-practised way for the emphatic closing line. "Vraiment vraiment, je ne sais pas — at all!"

(Music: Dum de dum de dum de dum ...)

THE following weeks were strange for the people of Ambridge. Of course, the village immediately declared UDI from Boreshire and stopped worrying about rabbits. Debbie Aldridge's horse, Anolycus, had an accident on the off-the-road riding course, and all the folk of Ambridge got a bit cheeky, wrapped in French newspaper. Linda

Snell took charge of drilling the village children in "The Marseillaise". And David and Phil practised some French farming methods they had read about — i.e., making placards and setting fire to lorries. But nobody's heart was really in it. And when people gathered together in Le Taureau of an evening they tended to blame the scriptwriters for letting things get out of hand.

"I thought there were summat wrong in Clarrie wanting to move to France," Tom Forrest moaned, gloomily sipping his fifth Kir Royale and wrinking his nose. "I wondered whether she might want Ambridge twinned with some French place. But I never imagined all of this."

"It's my opinion," Elizabeth piped, "that they don't know from one day to the next where the story is going."

Shula shot her a bleary-eyed glance. "I would have loved it!" she

burst out, and ran to the door marked "Dames".

"They sneaked it in, Uncle Tom," Phil snapped. "We were all so preoccupied with Elizabeth's baby that nobody took it seriously — French night at The Bull, indeed. ... Little William Grundy collecting snails for Jean-Paul at Grey Gables ... We thought we had better things to think about ... And don't forget my hip."

"Oh, Phil," Jill gasped, sensing a curtain-line approaching. "What are we going to do?"

Ah," Clarrie sighed, "inuit Joli. Eddie! Clarrie and Eddie had been for one *petite promenade* on Lake Hill to view the fields and farms of Pont d'Am. "I dunno, it's ... it's comme un rêve. One minute we're worrying about not having the rent money, the next we're lords of all we behold, and all the Archers have to learn French

and lump it. *C'est un funny old world, Eddie*."

"Funnier things have happened, Clarrie love. Remember the time when Nelson Gabriel was reported dead after a plane crashed in the Channel, and how all the villagers clubbed together and bought old Walter that tank of goldfish to cheer him up? Remember the Ambridge ghost, and the barn conversions?"

"Oh, but there's never been anything like this, Eddie."

The point is, Clarrie love, that complaining about *The Archers* getting far-fetched is like saying that *EastEnders* is suddenly depressing, or *Play School* a bit childish."

"Whatever you say, Eddie," Clarrie tucked her arm in Eddie's, and beamed with happiness. "Whatever you say."

New Archers theme music: Roch Voisine singing "Pour Toi", with Clarrie singing along.

BY A strange coup de bonheur, the next seven days of television are quite extraordinarily devoid of French content. No Maurice Chevalier movies, no *Love in the Afternoon*; no *Rapido*; no nozzin'. Aside from sporting events — the French Open (tennis) and the European Championship (probably football), you would hardly know that France existed.

Not wishing to *jeter le manche après le cognac* (i.e., give up), I did find consolation for the Gallic-minded amid the smaller items in the *Radio Times*. For example, today you could watch Jerry Lewis on BBC2 (*The Disorderly Orderly*, 3.05pm), and try to imagine what the French see in him (it might help to hum the old song "Fifty Million Frenchmen can't be Wrong").

Tomorrow, we find that the finalists on *Mastermind* (BBC1, 8.35pm) have not chosen a French topic among them (*merde!*), and that *Root Into Europe* (ITV, 8.45pm) has left France for Italy, presumably with xenophobic extraordinaire Henry Root (played by George "Arthur Daley" Cole) now referring to all strangers (hilariously) as Luigi, instead of Gaston.

Monday brings dubious relief to the Francophile with *Allo, Allo* (BBC1, 8.30pm), and at midnight Channel 4 kicks off a new series of *Taking Liberties* with Jacques Derrida, everybody's favourite living French deconstructionist. Asked in January by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* to contribute to a bit-of-fun anniversary item about the literary canon, Derrida replied in French, deconstructing the *THES* letter of request and not answering it. Good luck to interviewer Jonathan Ree on Monday night: things may get so deconstructed in the studio that everybody's trousers will fall down.

Tuesday sees "Money and Power in Provincial France" on *Open University* at midnight, also a French Canadian film, *Portion d'Éternité* (Channel 4, 10pm) — billed as thought-provoking, which sounds like a euphemism to me.

Wednesday is when the Francophile should sit up and take notice, for on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (Channel 4, 5pm) Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson talk about their film, *Paradise*, based on the brilliant *Le Grand Chemin* (Jean-Loup Hubert, 1987). Fans of the original will have a great opportunity to hurl baguettes at this featherlight acting duo, and denounce a Hollywood remake that gives new meaning to the word *travesty*.

Thursday and Friday round off this whizzo French week, with a film, *Doctor Françoise Gaillard*, about lung cancer (ITV, Thursday 1.05am), and *Parson My French*, a helpful language programme (ITV, Friday 11am). *Mieux vaut tard que jamais* (better late than never), as you might say.

L.T.

Here's the news, with celebrity status

The feminine style of a French newsreader has won the hearts — and ratings — of a captivated nation



The grizzled, after-hours crowds in the bars around the Paris Bourse sigh appreciatively as Claire Chazal announces that the stock of some provincial chicken breeder has risen or fallen a few centimes. Across town, in 16th-arrondissement cafes, sleek young women, fresh from exercise classes, grip their Parrier-Menthés and cry "C'est encore Dior!" as Mlle Chazal reports on a strip-mining project in Alsace.

Since Mlle Chazal began reading the news on France's main TV network, the ineluctably biased French have been taking an unusual interest in current events. "This girl can make a drought warning sound erotic," Patrick Le Lay, TF1's president, is supposed to have murmured after he signed Mlle Chazal from a rival network at three times her old salary.

What Mlle Chazal does, wears and thinks has become as newsworthy to the French as anything she reports. She has conferred instant stardom on her Parisian addresser (Joffo) and her country club (Miramar at Biarritz), and triggered a flood of curiosity about her background and lifestyle.

The revelation that she was having an affair with Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, the twice-married star of a popular newscaster, caused a sensation in a country that traditionally has little interest in the private lives of celebrities. The overall effect is summed up in the popular press simply as "Chazalmania".

A cool, petite blonde with hazel eyes and the diction of a French Ava Gardner, Mlle Chazal nevertheless represents a new direction

for women in French television. Before her the top billings belonged to elegant, artful but often intimidating women such as Christine Ockrent and Anne Sinclair, who did things much in the manner of their male counterparts.

Mlle Chazal, aged 35, projects a softer, more overtly feminine approach. She has learnt to accept and subtly exploit her appeal to both men and women, and to live with the exorbitant demands of stardom in a media age. It is hard to imagine the straight-laced Ockrent, for example, being photographed in her bathroom wearing an unbuttoned shirt.

None of which is to say the Chazal phenomenon amounts only to good looks and pronunciation. After gaining degrees in law and economics, she served a thorough apprenticeship in newspaper journalism, working mostly as a business specialist for *Les Echos*, the financial daily owned by the British Pearson group.

In 1988 came the offer of a job,



Très populaire: what Claire Chazal does, wears and thinks is as newsworthy as anything she reports

covering the Bourse, for France's second television network, Antenne 2. Television turned out to be the perfect medium for the blend of precision and sheer cuteness that is at the heart of Mlle Chazal's appeal. Last summer TF1 poached her for a reputed salary of £100,000 a year.

The ratings have soared, her new employers simpler over her as though she was the very future of television, and style magazines swoon over her "Grace Kelly looks", but Mlle Chazal has found

the "bimbo" tag hard to bury. Her lack of hard news experience and hesitant, back-peddling style of interviewing has provoked mutterings of dissent among more seasoned television hands.

Mlle Chazal is unrepentant. "At one time television viewers wanted to see a woman who was not only beautiful but cerebral, and that was undoubtedly Christine Ockrent," she says. "Today they want something a little softer, less aggressive, and perhaps that is me."

The formidable Ockrent — known to French television audiences as *La Reine Christine* — does not seem to entirely share this analysis. So far her most noteworthy comment on her young rival is that "Claire Chazal is always very well dressed."

Indeed she is. Her outfits, mostly by Dior, are scrutinised, analysed and copied to the extent that the "Chazal look" has become a distinct influence in French fashion. A few weeks ago when she wore a simple bee-shaped brooch, the jeweller was quickly identified, and stocks sold out within 24 hours.

Mlle Chazal's image is that of the ultimate "nappy", an acronym for

Neuilly-Auteuil-Passy, the cluster of fashionable suburbs to which upwardly mobile Parisians are supposed to aspire. In fact, she has already left such aspirations behind, living in the capital's ultra-swish 16th arrondissement.

In a country obsessed with appearances she has not only touched a chord, but sounded it to her professional advantage. Claire's hair, Claire's shoes, Claire's suits and jewellery have become not so much a distraction from, but an addition to, Claire's skills in journalism.

Her celebrity status doesn't perturb her. "I like being liked," she says. "I am very sensitive and aware of what people think of me, and how they see me. I don't try to be provocative. I'm really very conventional."

"I don't know quite what she has," says Michelle Cotta, the news director of TF1, and another high-flying female television executive. "It's a curious cocktail of ability, confidence, looks and conviction. Whatever it is, she has it."

WILLIAM LANGLEY

GUILTY SECRETS: MICHEL ROUX



"I love *Spitting Image*. There is a similar programme in France called *The Puppet Show*. The French try, but they'll never beat the British programme. *Spitting Image* is very clever and fairly accurate in its portrayal of public figures. I see most of them in my restaurant; you can't laugh at them face to face, so when I see them on *Spitting Image* I really enjoy it. They all make me laugh."

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TOP 10 FRENCH PROGRAMMES

French television ratings for last week (May 25-31):

1 Evadé d'Alcatraz (film) (TF1)	9.5 million
2 Milou en Mai (film) (TF1)	9.5 million
3 Football match: Amical France/Suisse (TF1)	8 million
4 Variétés. Tous à la Une (TF1)	7.5 million
5 Formule 1 Grand Prix - Essais (TF1)	7 million
6 Une Maman dans la Ville (téléfilm) (A2)	6 million
7 Sœurs Froides (film) (FR3)	6 million
8 Les Granges Brûlées (film) (FR3)	6 million
9 Magaz. Côte Court (A2)	5.5 million
10 Les Aventures de Tin Tin	5.5 million

(Source: Médiamat Médiametrie)

Is Paris the pace-setter of Europe in opera and dance? *Times* critics John Percival and Rodney Milnes look at recent developments there



Sylvie Guillem: since the late Eighties, the most sought after dancer in the world

A birthright reclaimed

John Percival examines how the Paris Opéra Ballet re-established its historical pre-eminence in dance

When Sylvie Guillem burst onto the stage of Covent Garden like an exotic fireball in the late Eighties, she did more than provide much-needed star power at the Royal Ballet. She also made French ballet famous again. For the first time in decades, the most sought-after dancer in the world was French, not Russian.

Indeed, you can forget other claims made for Russia: ballet as we know it began in France, where the company at the Paris Opéra has a history going back more than three centuries. What other country could produce a male dancer so famous that, when he appeared in London, parliament suspended its sittings rather than compete for members' attendance? That was Auguste Vestris in 1781, and over the years since then French dancers have never ceased to be among the best found anywhere, right through to Guillem today. And if Guillem has edged ahead of the competition, she left behind her in Paris a team of dancers that need fear no comparisons.

In terms of repertoire, too, the company has an unrivalled record. In the first half of the 19th century, Paris led the world in that respect: this is the world in which the company where *La Sylphide*, *Giselle* and many other famous works were created. Then St Petersburg began to take over, engaging many of the best French choreographers in the process: Dideot, Perrot, Saint-Léon and Petipa. The Paris Opéra, like a sleeping beauty, lay slumbering for a whole century after the creation of *Coppélia* in 1871. Good French choreographers eventu-

ally began to appear again, such as Roland Petit and Maurice Béjart, but they worked for their own companies.

When Rolf Liebermann was given a brief, and a budget, during the 1970s to put the Paris Opéra back on the artistic map of Europe, ballet began to bloom as much as opera. Liebermann's assistant, Hugues Gall, effectively ran the Ballet de l'Opéra during a decade that saw creations, not just imported productions, by the American experimentalists Merce Cunningham, John Cage and Jasper Johns at one extreme, and the conservative Muscovite Yuri Grigorovich at the other. A link was forged with Balanchine and Jerome Robbins which brought in works from their Stravinsky and Ravel festivals in New York.

Ironically, though, it was a Russian — Rudolf Nureyev — who returned French ballet to its former world-leading status. He took over the Paris Opéra Ballet in 1983, and proceeded to build on the achievements of Liebermann and Rosella Hightower before him. His six years as artistic director saw the company transfigured. There has probably never been a ballet director who showed such knowledge, intelligence, courage and flair in choosing a repertoire.

Nureyev's aim was quite simple: to liberate his dancers to make the most of their talents by letting them taste the best of old traditions. They were given a breathtakingly audacious range of

works: the 19th century classics in demanding versions, many of the great works of this century, ballets chosen for their local connections, new productions based on historical dances, reconstructions of long-lost works, contemporary choreography not only by acknowledged masters but by the iconoclastic Robert Wilson and some of the young extreme avant-garde — French, American and British.

Nureyev made full use, too, of a French tradition which gives opportunities very early to outstanding dancers, while trying to treat all his established stars fairly, too. Some of these latter, however, felt their positions were being undermined, and since Nureyev departed his successor, Patrick Dupond, has been more cautious about chances for junior dancers — even though he was one who benefited from the system in the past.

Still, there seems no likelihood that the supply of new talent will dry up, thanks to funding which allows the company's school to offer free board and education to any pupil it wants, and relieves it of any need to accept less gifted students, as British dance schools must for the sake of their fees. Claude Bessy, who directs the Paris school, chooses only children who seem likely to grow up with the right physique (the women's long, supple legs do not come by chance), and each

year relentlessly weeds out any who begin to lag behind.

Then, while students at the Royal Ballet School still have two or three more years of tuition ahead of them, their French opposite numbers join the company as apprentices. And once there, keenness is maintained through a system of promotion by annual competition: dancing two solos in front of a jury. With the opportunity this gives for quick promotion, every ambitious dancer wants to go on improving. But the repertoire since Nureyev left has become less exciting. There are still some bold gestures, like next season's plan to present a traditional production of *Giselle* on alternate nights with Mats Ek's revolutionary treatment (already seen on British television with his own Cullberg Ballet) which sets Act II in a mental hospital.

There are also coups such as having acquired Jerome Robbins' masterly *Dances at a Gathering* this past season, a work Covent Garden used to perform but is no longer permitted. And Nureyev's production of the complete *La Bayadère*, promised for October, should be an eye-opener.

All the same, something of the buzz has gone. The programmes no longer have so much that can be seen in Paris and nowhere else. In Nureyev's time there, it could be seriously argued that the Ballet de l'Opéra was the best ballet company in the world, thanks to its combination of superb dancing and exceptional programmes. That argument would not hold water now: the question is whether this is a temporary dip or the beginning of a slide.

Not so much phantom as football

Rodney Milnes traces the political history of the Opéra Bastille

Whatever else you may wish to say about the French, they do get things done. In 1982 did François Mitterrand a stately pleasure dome decree his answer to the immortality stakes to the Centre Pompidou. Seven years and £350 million later, the Opéra Bastille opened for business more or less on time. It would be uncharitable to suggest that Paris didn't actually need a new opera house: it already had four in good working order. But Mitterrand wanted a new "opéra moderne et populaire" and *la gloire* is a goal. How unlike the approach to arts funding of our own dear governments.

But a lot happened in those seven years. The right-wing Chirac government of 1986-8

wrought much mischief, and Chirac himself beefed up the profile of his rival Théâtre Musical de Paris at the Châtelet. The Salle Modulaire, prestigious adjunct to the 2,700-seat Grande Salle at the Bastille and capable of seating between 600 and 1,200 for anything from Baroque opera to experimental dance, was put on ice (it will not be ready before next year), and Chirac appointed Daniel Barenboim as overall artistic chief of the Bastille at a salary said to approach £700,000 twice that of any comparable post in Europe.

Weeks later the returning socialist government appointed Mitterrand's friend Pierre Bergé, of Yves Saint Laurent,

to oversee the Bastille. Barenboim was out, and with him such loyal colleagues as Boulez and Chéreau (Chéreau and Barenboim are this month working at the Châtelet, and the recent Boulez *Pelléas* at the Welsh National was originally destined for the Bastille). Opera as a political football: it couldn't happen here, we thought smugly, with our arm's-length principle — until we read the newspaper speculation last week about David Mollor's conditions for financing the Royal Opera House.

So it was a wonder that the Bastille did indeed open on time for the 200th anniversary of the storming of the building it replaced, and when it did there were predictable com-

plaints about Carlos Ott's winning design: as unwelcome as a hospital, all height and no breadth (it's a curiously poky building for one so grand), not enough lavatories, insufficient gangway space and, inevitably, poor acoustics. Vocal and orchestral sound seem oddly separated, the voices equally oddly distant, depending on where you sit. A deficit of £31 million in the first year (despite a subsidy of £46 million, so unlike...) meant that Barenboim's ideal of popular prices had to be abandoned. Yet despite a 40 per cent increase, a top ticket costs half at Covent Garden.

For all the controversy surrounding the project — continuous vituperation in the French press, even a book — there are bright sides to it all. The appointment of Barenboim may have been questionable (he was comparatively inexperienced in the operatic repertoire) but no one, not even the French press, questions the triumph of his rather more experienced successor, the young Korean conductor Myung Whun Chung. He has earned the respect of all who work for him as well as

that of audiences through his seriousness and honesty.

And the Bastille is full, right after night, even for the current series of Bruckner concerts under Marek Janowski: it really was needed. What it is full for is another matter. One of Bergé's complaints about Barenboim's plans was that there was insufficient emphasis on the French repertoire. So Chung was being politically astute in quickly scrapping together the first "complete" Paris performance of *Les Troyens*, to open the house officially two years ago.

Since then the repertoire has had a reach-me-down, Euro look: the inevitable *Otello* with the inevitable Domingo, *Ballo in maschera* with Pavarotti, a bewitched *Figaro* exhumed from the Palais Garnier, and several borrowed or shared stagings — a *Flycatcher* and *Elektra* from Los Angeles, a *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* from the Scala, a *Boris* from Bologna. But there have been highlights: the Graham Vick *Re in ascolto* from Covent Garden, a new Robert Wilson *Zauberflöte* and yet another *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*.

There has been an air of sometimes desperate improvisation, but that's opera. More



President Mitterrand's choice as president: Pierre Bergé, outside the Opéra Bastille

disappointingly, the much vaunted stage machinery — ten side stages, movable proscenium, wall-to-wall revolves — has never been fully exploited.

But Chung's third season, starting this autumn, looks extremely promising on paper, not least on the French repertoire front. Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* with Isabelle Huppert and Roussel's *Padmavati* directed by Vick and with (a comparative rarity in Paris) a roster of French singers are just what one hoped the

Bastille would be doing. Messiaen's *Saint François d'Assise* comes in its Salzburg guise directed by Peter Sellars. There will be a new *Benvenuto Cellini* with Chris Merritt and, at last, a new *Carmen*: who knows, this time they might get it right for the first time since the golden age of the Opéra Comique.

After so much truly operatic drama, the Bastille could just be starting to make sense. After all, it has the first essential for a successful opera house — a hands-on musical

director — and acoustics are adaptable nowadays. The worrying thing is that the whole edifice could so easily come tumbling down. All that is needed is a change of President, which might come sooner than we think, and the cultures will descend: Bergé will be out, and so will the administrator Georges-François Hirsch, simply because he's there.

Even Chung would not be safe. Opera as a political football: is there an awful warning here?

Disturbed soldier on parade sends out conflicting signals

OPERA

Wozzeck
Châtelet, Paris

The Daniel Barenboim-Patrice Chéreau production of *Wozzeck* was originally destined for the Opéra Bastille before the great falling out: it opened instead to great acclaim at the rival Théâtre Musical de Paris at the Châtelet, en route for the Berlin State Opera (Barenboim's new fief) and Chicago. This was a curious evening. You should surely come out of *Wozzeck* feeling some reaction: angry, moved, purged, suicidal, something. I felt none of these things, merely that I had witnessed an intensely serious, meticulously prepared, clinically detached staging that deliberately set out not to engage the audience's feelings.

This was despite a framework that seemed to suggest the opposite: the performance took everyone by surprise by starting with the house lights up and the Captain entering from the stalls to engage in his duet with Wozzeck on a bare stage with follow-spots (noth-

ing so "culinary" as a razor or shaving brush). Doctor and Drum Major, also entered through the auditorium at the end of the orphaned child exiting through the stalls and the lights came up long before the music finished. This opera is about you, Chéreau seemed to be saying. But it wasn't.

Richard Peduzzi's decor was based on a grey box through which geometric shapes like children's building bricks slid noiselessly on and off. Their muted colours were enhanced by Dominique Bruguière's exquisitely poetic lighting, and the whole had a glacial beauty to it, a cool, calculated chic that even spread over into some of Chéreau's groupings. Is this really what Bergé wanted?

Chéreau played the Captain and Doctor conventionally as expressionist freaks, and in that context drew virtuoso performances from Graham Clark and Günter von Kannen respectively: Mark Baker, a fine singer but neither physically nor vocally a Helden tenor. Drum Major, completed a trio of antagonists that threw Franz Grundheber's superb Wozzeck into

sharp relief. He seemed in contrast a creature of sound common sense betrayed only by his inarticulateness and pushed over the edge after a campaign of calculated persecution. This reading works better if the persecutors are something more than freaks, and if you somehow get round the profoundly unsettling second scene of the opera, in which Wozzeck shows unmistakable symptoms of the Doctor's *aberration mentalis*. Here, the pieces didn't quite fit.

Yet Chéreau and his protagonist certainly faced up to this scene, and Grundheber's most beautifully sung performance, acted with compelling dignity, was the evening's one indisputable success. Waltraud Meier's blessedly unsluggish Marie was also confidently sung and characterised with passionate directness: the Lullaby and the Bible-reading were the nearest the evening came to *Wozzeck*-as-expected. Barenboim's carefully prepared reading with the Orchestre de Paris, slightly jerky rather than flowing, was compromised by the Châtelet's deep pit: it is not often that one wants more orchestral sound in *Wozzeck*, but such was the case. One certainly wanted more red corpses than were on offer in this ice-cold, greyly cerebral production.

RODNEY MILNES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Angry old man

Deja Vu, John Osborne's sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, finally opens next week. Tomorrow, Osborne talks to The Sunday Times about the tortuous history of getting the play on

Lesley White interviews John Osborne, in The Sunday Times Review tomorrow

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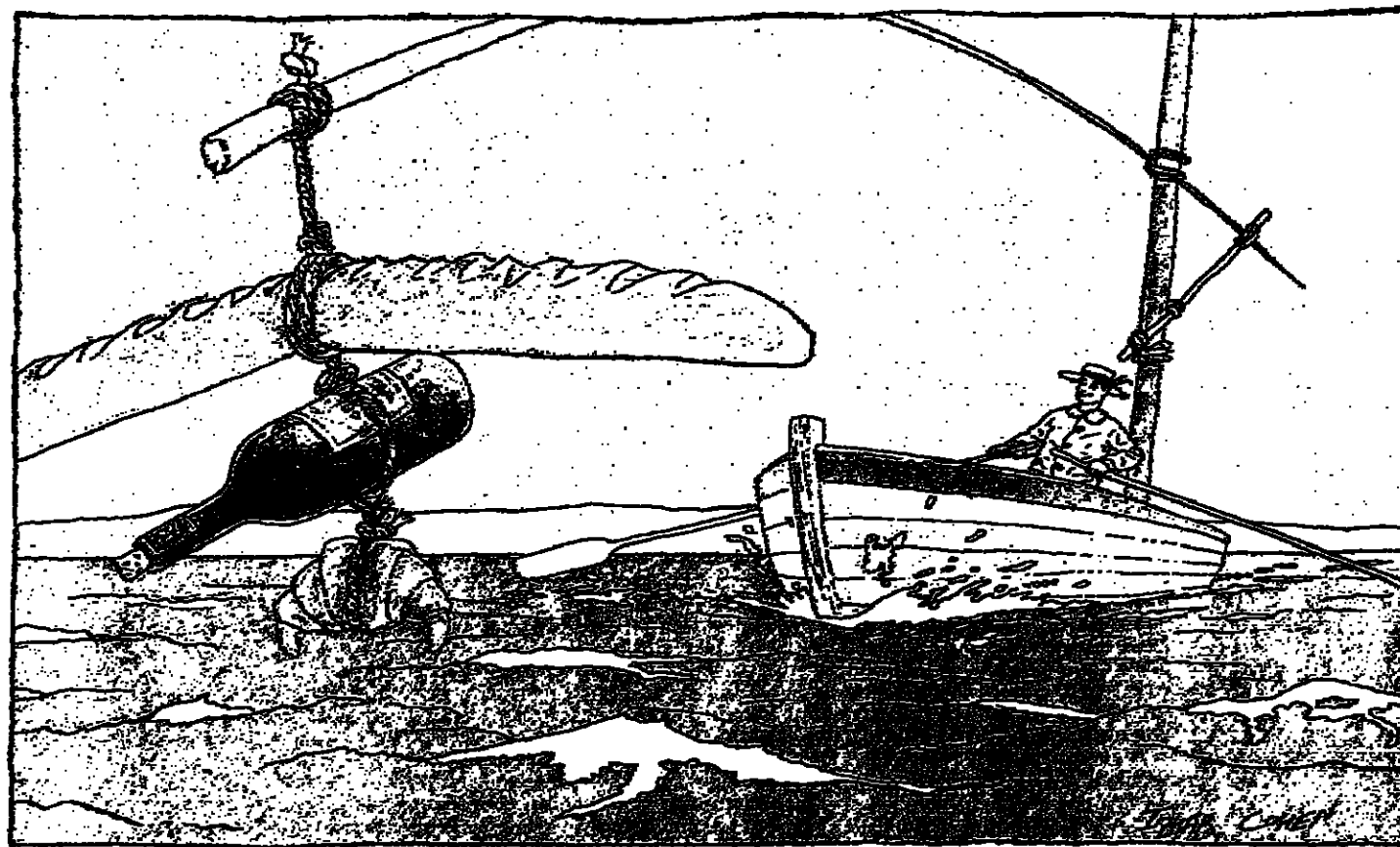


FRANCE is also fog, mines, flatlands, back to backs, beer. It is, too, a site of mass death, and that may be why the British race through the north, chasing the sun, forgetting that 75 years ago France meant mud, shrapnel and flu in the way that it now vulgarly means wine, garlic and the sweetness of life. I'm obviously making generalisations, but there can be little doubt that Arras, say, and Armentières (home of Made-moisele) are less familiar to us than the Dordogne and Provence.

The Nord and the Pas de Calais are not part of theme park France. Thankfully, whether or not the absence of tourism makes much difference to the gastronomy of an area remains moot. Certainly there are restaurants in Lille — a city which is closer to London than Leeds (and also founded in textiles) — that have self-consciously revived Nordist cooking; maybe revive is to put it too strongly, for that city still has inhabitants who are what the Walloons call Nederlandophones. It is a recognisably Flemish city. I shall write about it later in the year. Outside Lille one does not seek in vain for regional dishes, but they are by no means ubiquitous. French cooking has developed a tendency to look south — which does not accord too well with a kitchen based in strong cheeses, smoked meats, cured fish etc. These are things which do not necessarily demand wine. Indeed it might be said that they destroy wine. The traditional drinks are beer (of an alarming strength) and genever (ditto). Wine lists, even in grand restaurants, tend to be eccentric inadequacy and vinous infanticide — but these are nowadays pan-Gallic norms. A list comprised solely of 1990s wines would be no surprise, and last week I found myself scrutinising lists in search of, say, a 1993 Chablis — this is, after all, a high-tech republic.

La Meunerie at Teteghem enjoys a reputation as one of the finest restaurants in the north. Its site — on the edge of an estate of executive boxes in the outer suburbs of Dunkirk — is an improbable one for an establishment of such ambitions. The building is undistinguished, signalled by a weird configuration of globe lights at the entrance. The interior is Modern French Grand Restaurant. That is to say it's a stew of decorator's solecisms. There's green grained wood: there's a column and a slice of pediment against a mirrored wall; there's a blackamoor electrolier; there is a job lot of paintings including a worrying *trompe l'oeil*. The grandiosity just about stays this side of overwhelming. The staff helps in this regard: there is a pleasant sommelier and he seems to set the tone of amiability and efficiency.

Just how ambitious an outfit this is may be quantitatively judged. Two



courses of amuse-bouches, and four plates of frandises. These multiple parentheses were impressive and the preprandial bits revealed the hand of a first-rate pastry chef. Puddings include apple in brick pastry, crêpes soufflés and a plate of chocolate confectations. But there have to be question marks against several of the first courses and entrées. Duck in two services was disappointing — a bloody but not notably well flavoured breast was followed by a filo parcel of allegedly confit meat which tasted of nothing but overcooked leg. This was not the only dish that was heavily herbed with dill. Foie gras got that

without making a song and dance about so doing. It may not aim quite as high as La Meunerie, but its accomplishment of its main dishes is fuller.

This may of course be because the kitchen is not distracted by serial courses of amuse-bouches etc. The concentration of the core of the meal is total. And if the chef, Alain Leguy, doesn't receive his due deserts in his own country it is, I fear, because he cooks rather than puts on a gastro-display. But here I am, *ce salaud d'anglais*, to rectify all that. Three dishes in particular are to be praised to the sky. Sandre, pike-perch, is a delicate freshwater

combination of meat and cooking agent would be hard to imagine.

L'Auberge Fleurie's local cheeses are lovely, and even those from distant Alsace have made the journey safely — the Munster is exemplary. The bread is indifferent, the service is excellent. The wine list is strong on champagne, which is almost the local tipple, but otherwise all over the place. Bordeaux vintages from the kindergarten are marked up prohibitively while a superb and spicy '83 Hermitage Rochefine is flogged at a giveaway price. No doubt this says a lot about the ignorance of French drinkers. The restaurant is part of a small hotel which if it is only half as good as the restaurant is worth seeking.

Maubeuge was destroyed early in the war and rebuilt soon after it, in a utilitarian modernist idiom. Here and there it rather resembles an east European garden city, and there are a couple of interesting, faintly expressionist churches. But most of it is lay-bys, dowdy social housing and traffic islands. Still, if mid-century urbanism is your cup of tea, this is one to notch up. It is also apparently one of Le Pen's northern strongholds.

The service at the risibly named Grand Hotel is memorably unpleasant. Two youths with cropped hair, scowls and anglophobic attitudes served a by no means poor meal with a hostility and an insolence that must have been an effort to sustain. One of them wore a bracelet marked "France", in case he should forget his allegiance, no doubt. This was a shame for the place has a certain appeal — it is virtually unchanged from the day it opened 40 or so years ago, and its view of a lorry park and a petrol station certainly lend it *ouvrier* cred. Not, mind, that the prices are at that level. And when the cooking doesn't overreach itself it's pleas-

ing. The kitchen does a fine tart of Marolles cheese, pork with genever and juniper berries chicken in waterzooi. Its composed salads are well made and so are its sweets. Some of the garnishing was bathetic — Bird's Eye peas in a hollowed tomato, that sort of thing. But some of the wines are bargains, e.g. a Connétable-Talbot from 1982.

Another Grand Hotel, in Valenciennes, looks much more the part. This is an art deco wedding cake which is home to Le Lions Club de Valenciennes. The interior is intact and must have been impressive before the colour-blind restoration. The view of the railway station is magnificent — this is a 1900 pastiche of Mansart and is an absolute must for amateurs of transport architecture of that period (I also recommend Metz). The station has a well-reputed SNCF buffet and it might have been wiser to eat there, for the Grand Hotel's kitchen is anything but grand. The local speciality, *languue Lucullus*, turned out in this version to be a sad terrine of smoked tongue layered with insipid foie gras. The choucroute that succeeded it included gelatinous hunks of pig trotter and nettles of pig's ears. Oink.

La Meunerie
174 rue Pierres, Teteghem 59229
(23 26 14 30)
Lunch Tues to Sun, dinner Tues to Sat. £130.

Auberge Fleurie
67 rue General de Gaulle,
Sars-Poteries 59216
(27 61 62 48)
Lunch Tues to Sun, dinner Tues to Sat. £76.

Le Grand Hotel
1 Porte de Paris, Maubeuge 59600
(27 64 63 16)
Lunch and dinner every day. £60.

Le Grand Hotel
8 Place de la Gare, Valenciennes
59300 (27 46 32 01)
Lunch and dinner every day. £70 plus.

**'Wine lists tend to
vinous infanticide —
but this is nowadays a
pan-Gallic norm'**

fish with a flavour quite unlike that of the bottom-feeding sander which, when hauled from a fenland drain, will taste of nothing but mud. That which M Leguy cooks tastes of clean streams. Where the clean streams might be is anybody's guess — the rivers over the Belgian border near Mons and Charleroi must be among the filthiest in western Europe. No matter. This is a superb fish and when done with a sauce based on the aged genever called *houille* it becomes a superb dish.

Salmon is served raw with fragrant oil and another dressing based maybe on a thinned mayonnaise. It is cut like smoked salmon, in one thin, plate-wide slice. Coq à la bière in the version here is a revelation. The meat is dark, slowly braised for a long while in brown beer which is reduced to make a terrifically unctuous sauce: a finer

Beating the French at their own games

Two British families found they had acquired more than a home in France. Jane MacQuitty reports

Many English couples dream of escaping to France with the children, to live off the land and enjoy the Gallic good life. Few fulfil their French fantasies. Two who did, at opposite ends of the French country life spectrum, are the Bannermans of Normandy and the Johnson-Hills of Bordeaux.

Neither couple set out to beat the French at their own beverage game. But both fell in love with French rural life, adopted their region's liquor traditions and ended up by producing the best bottles on their patch. Neither has any regrets, nor any intention of coming back to Blyth. Too idyllic to be true? Read on.

A Cambridge English degree followed by a stint at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School do not sound like ideal training for a master Pays d'Auge cider maker. But the actor, writer and poet Tim Bannerman, his wife Gill and their four children, Leo (19), Josh (11), Amy (eight), and Sam (six), know as much as their neighbours do about the ancient mysteries and arcane methods of traditional Normandy cider production.

The Bannermans moved to France in 1989 when they were compelled to leave a pretty Elizabethan farmhouse in Hampshire for somewhere cheaper. The sort of space and greenery they had been used to ruled out southern England and its high prices. France suddenly became an option: "It was really one of those

stick-a-pin-in-the-map sort of things," Mrs Bannerman says. "We came over to Caen for five days, drew a semicircle on the map, knocked on the door of a helpful estate agency in Lisieux and found the house on the first day. It was the third one we looked at." What the Bannermans saw was a half-timbered house complete with cider cellar and rusty old cider racks, in the middle of a typical, tumble-down Normandy village, opposite the church with about two sloping acres of cider orchard at the bottom of the garden. The house had everything they wanted, and stands at the heart of the finest Pays d'Auge cider country.

Three cider vintages later, the Bannermans, who learnt everything from the locals, are expecting their best cider harvest this winter. Cider production — "a complete ritual" is how they describe it — often runs as late as November and December, when top-notch varieties such as the prized Noël des Champs are picked by blue Bannerman fingers. A warning moon dictates the booking of the tractor-drawn and driven press that crunches and presses the Bannermans' bitter-sweet cider apples, producing as much as 1,700 litres of "an astoundingly sweet, dirty brown liquid". After a month or more of fermentation in open-bunged old whisky barrels comes "the mind, soul and hand-mumbled effort" of hand bottling in scrubbed old champagne bottles that have, the Banner-

mans calculate, seen 50 recycled vintages of Pays d'Auge life, after their champagne baptism.

The result is a deliciously rustic, earthy, slightly pétillant, flowery-apple brew that from the beginning was described by local people as what Normandy cider should taste like — and did, 20 years ago.

This year the Bannermans planted five new cider apple trees in their Normandy orchard, and only one eating apple tree. Equally rural and remote, but in keeping with the more sophisticated traditions of the finest wine in France, are the Johnson-Hills in Bordeaux. With 12 vintages of Château Méaume, one of the right bank's top *petit châteaux* Bordeaux Supérieur wines, behind them the Johnson-Hills rate their '90 as their best



Cider with everything: the Bannerman family in the cellar of their home in Normandy

vintage yet. So does the British wine trade. Already, pukka Hill says. Also like the Bannermans, the Johnson-Hills' acquisition of a cellar and 50 acres of vineyards was a secondary consideration to their purchase of a French country house. "Based in Hong Kong, we wanted to return to Europe and I remember once sitting outside in the south of France on a warm, formative evening listening to the crickets chirping, drinking rosé and eating the region's cheese, thinking this is the life for me."

In the event it was Mrs Johnson-Hill who found and bought Méaume without her husband seeing it in late 1979. Owning a vineyard and making wine were thought to be side issues. First off the plane from Hong Kong was the Johnson-Hills great dane, incongruously named Puppy, followed by daughters Emma, Louise and Camilla, now adults. In order to learn how to run Méaume and its attractive, rambling château efficiently, Mr Johnson-Hill took a year off from his career in

finance to do every job on the property himself: "A blistering process for my hands." Given Bordeaux's high-tech 1980s era, and the many scientific skills now needed to make great wine, the Johnson-Hills wisely hired leading left bank oenologist Michel Rolland to help them. With about 70 per cent of Méaume's vineyards planted to the merlot grape, 20 per cent to cabernet franc and the remainder to cabernet sauvignon, a usual left-bank mix, the Johnson-Hills have gone as high as any *petit château* claret can go. The Méaume result most years (see box) is 15,000 cases of a rich, plummy, supple, drinkable wine with bags of fruit and style. Previously entirely vinified in stainless steel, as befits a Bordeaux Supérieur wine, Méaume is beginning to be aged, like classy, left-bank châteaux, in small new oak barrels. Ten per cent of the 1990 vintage received this treatment. The best of Méaume is yet to come. See you in France?

Best buys

● 1989 **Château Méaume Majestic** £4.99
A full purple red colour leads on to a lovely rich, plummy merlot mouthful.
● 1988 **Château Méaume Majestic** £5.49
Firmest and fullest vintage to date, tannic, structured and sandalwood-scented, needs time to mature.
● 1990 **Château Méaume**
Purple-black, intense seductive cassis fruit, the best Méaume yet. Bottled but

only available on an excellent basis for £32 a case from John Harvey and Sons, 31 Denmark Street, Bristol, or £28.70 from Justerini & Brooks, 61 St James's Street, SW1.
● Sadly the Bannermans do not sell their cider. But farms selling the best Normandy cider direct display the "Cru de Cambremer" sign indicating that theirs won approval at the producers' annual tasting.

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money, they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of repertoire, and are subject to frequent change. Reviews in this directory are drawn from articles previously published in the main column. It is not only dishonest to be illegal to dishonour bookings that goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

FRANCE

Robert Abraham
4 Chaussée du Sillon, St Malo
(99 40 50 93)

The restaurant looks out to sea and to the little island called Grand Be where Chateaubriand is buried. M Abraham is a brilliant and audacious chef whose repertoire includes a number of dishes that revive the old Malouin practice of cooking with spices. Thus a galette of leeks, mussels and onions is flavoured with coriander and a sweetish masala. Raw, lightly marinated salmon is dressed with various aromatics. Guinea fowl is served in two ways: the breast is cooked in a salt crust, the leg is braised in black tea. Fine puddings: berries with what tastes like Pepsodent, egg custard with citrus and caramel. Nice wine list, strong in Loire. Closed Sunday night and Monday but open all week in July and August. £70 plus.

Restaurant de Briouart
1 Rue Duguesclin, Cancale
(99 89 64 76)

The major French guides — Michelin, Gault Millau and Bonin Gourmand — rate this higher than any other place for miles around. The early 19th-century house is certainly charming and elegant. The reception is polished. The service is rather grand. And the cooking is admirable — which is the problem. One is more liable to marvel at the technical ingenuity of the chef than to actually enjoy his food. His cleverness is unimpaired by joy. You feel you are witness to a sort of demonstration. However, as modern temples of gastronomy go it is blessedly bereft of pomposity and not stupidly expensive. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. £80.

La Godille
Port Mer, Cancale (99 89 65 65)

Friendly restaurant which overlooks the bay of Mont St Michel. Its aspirations may be limited but it thoroughly achieves them. It serves massive quantities of raw shellfish (Cancale is an oyster town) and follows up with massive quantities of meat grilled over a log fire near the front door. Terrific chips. Lunch and dinner every day. £40.

Brasserie des Voyageurs
Place Chateaubriand, St Malo
(99 56 45 39)

You can sit here and watch special export quality British yobs do their stuff. When Our Finest aren't strutting their pathetic stuff this square is filled with purposeful Local Colour — folk songsters and their pumps, Africans selling trad Senegalese sunglasses as worn by Ray Charles. Eat andouillette or steak with chips, and oysters. Lunch and dinner every day. £25.

La Rose des Sables
8 Rue Amiral Magon, St Servan
(99 82 32 48)

A delightful improbability. A building like a village hall converted into Marrakesh tent with carpets on ceiling and brass trays on the wall. Some of the Moroccan cooking is pre-much the works: couscous with mutton brochettes of mixed meats, chicken stew. The Algerian wine called Coud de Mascara is undrinkable. Lunch, Sun, dinner Tues-Sun. £35.

La Rotonde
1 Boulevard Chateaubriand, Parame (99 40 47 97)

An ancient hotel restaurant approached by way of a pool table and a curved bar whose clientele is spectacularly varied: the kind of people who end up in human interest stories in *Le Paris* and *Paris Stair*. Competent if incredibly basic, but a thousand times better than you find on, say, the Isle of Wight. Oyster steaks, chips, simple soups are unexceptionable. Closed Sunday night and Monday but open all week in Jul. £15 plus.

La Comptole
102 Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris 14 (43 20 14 20)

One of the greatest Parisian brasseries whose refurbishment in the late 1980s was not to all tastes — the paint of 6 years was stripped off, the place was lifted back to the cradle. For such a vast outfit — it seats about 500 — the cooking is surprisingly good, and much better than it was a decade or so ago. Not that the cooking of the service are where people come here. They come being every night at this extraordinary place, an event. It's that simple. Open until 2am every day.

Carre des Feuillants
14 Rue Cassini, Paris 1
(42 86 32 82)

Mighty swish outfit between Rue d'Enfer and Place Vendôme. It is adorned with wit and originality. When you enter you are confronted by a stone bar filled with champagne bottles: the wall are hung with good 19th-century prints of such pastimes as hippopotamus hunting on the Congo river, there is a bizarre log fire in a glass box in the middle of the dining room. This is a second restaurant to have been opened by the fine south-western chef Albi Duoumeris. The menu is able to be thick with foie gras dishes. This liver used to soufflé which are proudestly consumed, and to sauce duck. The charcuterie is superb: delicate persillade rabbit is bound with a ginger flavoured jelly and served with cry puree. Cornucopia is done in the Cuisinier style. Fish, cheese, fine south western wine. Closed Saturday lunch and Sunday. £9 plus.

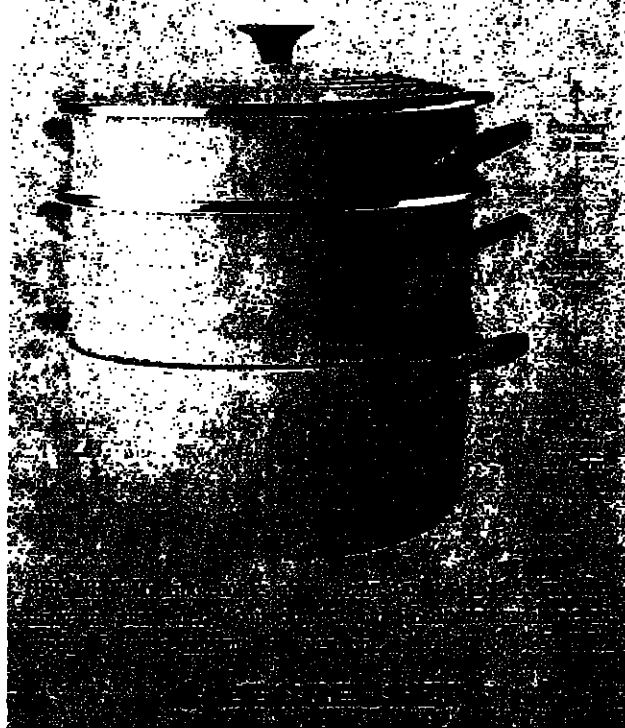
FRENCH CONNECTIONS

Raymond Blanc: "Food and wine is still very much at the centre of French culture. It is our only tradition that has survived the onslaught of the 20th century. The French have the capacity to really enjoy good food and good wine, whether it is a little meal at a little bistro for 70 francs, OK, or a family meal at home, or a wonderful meal in a three-star Michelin restaurant. Firstly they will enjoy it with sensuality — it will become a great celebration, a great event. And secondly, there will be no guilt attached



to it — just total enjoyment as a celebration of life. I feel great nostalgia when I think back to the simple, beautiful food my mother gave me as a child. I remember the amazing change of having to sit up straight at the table for two or three hours with the boring adults who were busy talking. Then the dessert would happen and it made it all worthwhile. The one I'll always remember is *fies Flottantes*. It was beautiful then, and it's beautiful now thinking of it. That was an act of love...

240 mm.
Is our cuisine
too haute?



Lessons in taste I'll never forget

Frances Bissell, the *Times* cook, recreates some of the dishes she discovered as a young *assistante* in southwest France



THE first meal I ever ate in France is still vivid in my memory. It was a warm day in the year of *les étés de mai*, and I had arrived in Albi, near Toulouse, on the overnight train from Paris to begin a year at the Ecole Normale as *assistante*. After meeting the formidable *directrice*, I was taken into the dining room for a solitary lunch.

It was late enough in the year not to bother with shutters, and the tall, generously proportioned windows let in the afternoon sun. About 20 round tables with bentwood chairs were arranged around the cool, tiled floor of the room. At one end was a long, wooden dresser on which woven red and green napkins and tablecloths were piled next to water jugs, bread baskets and litre bottles of red wine. The *table des prof* was laid for one. I was given a crisp napkin and a bread basket lined with a red linen cloth containing a newly baked baguette, chopped into pieces by the *guillotine* on the sideboard. I poured a glass of the rough red wine from Labastide de Lévis and ate the *blanchette de veau* put in front of me, followed by a perfectly ripe *Passecrassane* pear and a slice of Cantal. All this was a hint of what was to come in this tranquil building, where the chef was paid more than the principal. This young man, not long out of his apprenticeship, was already well known in the region for the banquets he prepared when off duty for christenings and first communions. He was not generous with his recipes and tuition, but would allow me into his kitchen to watch what he was cooking.

The experience of that year was very important to me, and I could not help being influenced by it. I learnt about food that was new to me: mussels, oysters, sweetbreads, brains, skate and chouchoute, and the Languedoc specialties of confit, cassoulet and *brandade de morue*. The school was small, not many more than 100 students and staff, and we ate wonderful food. At this time of year, especially on Sundays, when most of the boarders had gone home, chef would give us asparagus with sauce moutonaise, a whole poached salmon garnished with cucumber slices and lightly jellied stock, followed by home-

made ice-cream. We would still drink the same coarse wine though. Only on birthdays would we club together to buy a bottle of champagne and *gâteaux sec* for an afternoon *vin d'honneur*. "We," I should add, were the *assistants*, the three *surveillantes* and the assistant housekeeper.

Sometimes I would go off with my friend Michèle to her family in the country, where I learnt about wild mushrooms, which we would gather in the field nearby, toss in butter and serve for supper with an *omelette aux fines herbes*, followed by *reines claudes d'eau de vie*.

My year at Albi taught me a great deal about food, taste, seasonality, and the importance of choosing the very best ingredients one can afford.

The recipes that follow are not fashionable, just very good, full of flavour and texture. I do not advise having the *fricassée* and the *oeufs à la neige* at the same meal — you might find yourself experiencing an authentic French *crise de foie* and have to take to your bed with *risanes*.

Légumes à la grecque

Artichoke bottoms and baby artichokes, courgettes, green beans, celery, mushrooms, wild mushrooms and small onions are some of the vegetables that can be prepared in the same way. Trim the vegetables as appropriate, cutting celery and courgettes into rounds or batons. Cooking time will vary, mushrooms and courgettes will need only a few minutes, onions and artichokes much longer.

Cour-mouillon

7oz/200ml water or vegetable stock
3/4oz/100ml extra virgin olive oil
juice of 2 lemons or 3/4oz/100ml dry white wine
1 bouquet garni: a piece of fennel, a celery top, spring of thyme and one bay leaf, tied together
1tbsp coriander seeds
1tbsp coarse sea salt
1/2tsp white peppercorns

Bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes and then cook the vegetables in it for as long as necessary. Strain them and, when cool, mix together again with some of the cooking liquid. Note: This is an extremely good court-bouillon for poaching fish, such as mackerel or salmon fillets, and for chicken.

Poulet en gelée aux légumes de printemps

(serves 4-6)
1lb/455g free-range chicken breasts, skinned and boned
1pt/570ml seasoned chicken or vegetable stock
3oz/85g fine green beans
3oz/85g celery
2-3oz/60-85g shelled peas
3oz/85g peeled, seeded tomatoes
4 sheets of leaf gelatine
To serve
sauté leaves
watercress or tomato sauce

Trim the chicken and cut it into long strips about the same thickness as the fillets under the breast. Put three-quarters of the stock into a saucepan and gently poach the chicken for 5 minutes, allowing it to cook in the liquid. Top and tail the beans. Peel the carrots and shave into long thin strips, and then into fine matchsticks. Remove the "strings" from the celery and cut into long, thin strips. Cut the tomatoes into dice.

Remove the chicken from the liquid, and poach the vegetables in the stock for 3-4 minutes until tender, and then remove. Soak the gelatine in the reserved stock until soft and then stir it into the warm stock until thoroughly dissolved.

To assemble, take a 1 1/2-2lb/750g/1kg loaf tin and wet it. Put a little stock into the tin and lay in it enough beans to cover. Allow to set. Lay the carrots and celery on top and pour in more stock. When this has set, lay the chicken pieces on top, and pour in enough stock to just cover. When this has set add the final layer, the peas and diced tomato and the rest of the stock. Allow to set in the refrigerator. To serve, turn out the terrine and slice.

Fricassée de poulet ménégré

(serves 4-6)
4lb/1.80kg free-range chicken
2oz/60g unsalted butter
small wine glass/about 100ml good dry white wine
1 1/2pt/850ml boiling water
20 small pickling onions, peeled and bleached
1 bouquet garni (a spring of parsley, a bay leaf and some thyme, tied together)
1tbsp coarse sea salt
freshly ground black pepper
2tbsp flour
20 button mushrooms or, if you can get them, fresh morels



2 free-range egg yolks
finely chopped parsley

Joint the chicken into eight pieces and put them in a casserole with half the butter and the wine. Cover and cook over a moderate heat until the white wine has almost evaporated, and then add the water, the onions, the bouquet garni and the seasoning. Simmer for 8-10 minutes. Meanwhile, mix the flour with a little cold water and then, when smooth, with a little of the boiling pan juices. Stir the flour paste into the casserole, half cover with the lid, and cook over a moderate heat for 25-30 minutes, or until the chicken is thoroughly cooked. Meanwhile, quickly fry the mushrooms in the remaining butter, add to the casserole, and reduce

the heat once the chicken has cooked. Just before serving, enrich the sauce further by beating the egg yolks into a little of the boiling sauce, and then returning it to the casserole. Mix thoroughly. Sprinkle with parsley, and serve, either from the casserole or on heated plates. Steamed new potatoes, rice or fresh noodles are all excellent accompaniments. Note: cream or stabilised yoghurt can be used in place of the egg yolks to enrich the sauce. If you disapprove of flour-thickened sauces, leave it out.

Oeufs à la neige

(serves 4-6)
3 free-range eggs
3/4oz/100g vanilla sugar (icing sugar or caster sugar in which vanilla pods have been stored)

Separate the eggs, and whisk the whites to firm peaks with the sugar. In a shallow pan, such as a deep frying pan or sauté pan, bring the milk to the boil. Make "egg" shapes of meringue with two tablespoons, and place them in the simmering milk. Poach for 2 minutes, and then gently turn the meringues over with two forks. When they are firm to the touch, remove them with a slotted spoon, and drain them on a clean tea towel.

With the milk and egg yolks and a little more sugar, make a custard of pouring consistency, and pour it into a glass bowl. Float the meringues on top and serve chilled.

France's finest food

A new series by
Frances Bissell

SOME of the best loved French dishes are so regional that it is well nigh impossible to recreate them in our kitchens. For example, unless you can find *racasse*, *rouquiers*, and *grelles* and the sea water to rinse them in, it is best to leave *bouillabaisse* to the *marseillais*. This aside, there are many favourite French dishes to be explored. There are the classics of *haute cuisine*, with hundreds of ways of preparing sole, and *cuisine du terroir*, once again in vogue, producing many rustic and regional dishes. Everyday dishes of *cuisine familiale* or *cuisine bonne femme* are a delight too.

Over the next few weeks I will dip into all these repertoires, acquired over 25 years of living in and visiting France. As a start, who can remember what a real quiche tastes



GREAT CLASSICS

like? Quiche long ago went the way that fresh pasta is in danger of going now, completely removed from the simple original recipe. Quiche Lorraine does not have, and never has had, cheese in it. It is a savoury custard tart, flavoured with small chunks of fried, smoked bacon. Traditionally it is served as a first course, warm and within half an hour of being removed from the oven.

Quiche Lorraine

(serves 4-6)
7oz/200g plain flour, sifted
2oz/60g butter
1/2oz/40g lard
pinch of salt
iced water
6oz/140g smoked bacon in a piece
1 1/4pt/430ml single cream or crème fraîche
2 free-range eggs

Make a shortcrust pastry with the flour, fat, salt and just enough water to bind it together. Let the pastry rest for an hour. Discard the bacon rind, dice the bacon, and fry for a few minutes to render some of the fat. Drain the bacon on paper towels. Roll out the pastry and use it to line an 8in/20.5cm tart tin. Scatter the bits of bacon over the bottom of the tart. Beat the cream and eggs together and pour it into the pastry case. Bake in a preheated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for 10 minutes, and then turn down to 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for a further 20-30 minutes, until the custard is just set. Remove from the oven.

Creative twists for croissants

THE most boring thing you can do with a croissant is to dip it in your *café-au-lait*. The humble centrepiece of the continental breakfast, introduced to France (from Vienna) by Marie-Antoinette, has made the culinary leap off the breakfast plate into the Glyndebourne hamper and the canapé tray.

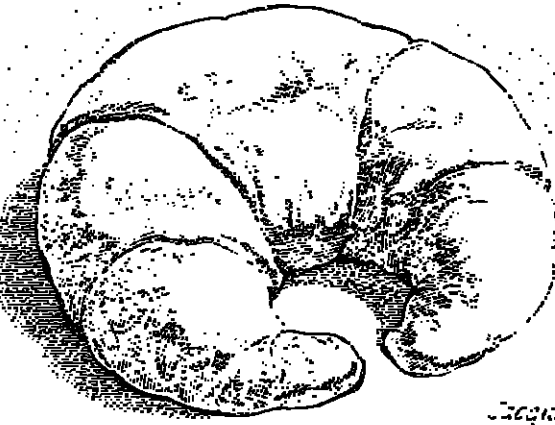
Reinhard Kellner, chef of the gourmet delicatessen Les Spécialités St Quentin, says: "Croissants are the perfect, anytime snack." His repertoire of creative croissants include fillings of Gruyère cheese, smoked salmon, cooked ham, or, for the sweet-toothed, a light raspberry coulis.

You may have become prejudiced against exotic croissants by the rapidly expanding chains of croissanteries, but by following the suggestions of some of today's most imaginative chefs, they can be elevated to gourmet status.

Ideally, bake your own croissants, for optimum freshness and to infuse the light, flaky pastry totally with the flavours of your chosen fillings. (As a short cut, try Pillsbury's Hot-Bake Croissant Dough, 99p for 308g, from Sainsbury's.) But nobody's life is so short to stuff a shop-bought croissant heat for ten minutes in a medium-hot oven, slice down the middle, leaving the two halves attached, and fill.

The London restaurateur Nico Ladenis, of Simply Nico and Chez Nico, fondly recalls

Chefs turn the humble breakfast pastry into an anytime canapé



his favourite croissant: "Filled with scallops and prawns, cooked in a sweetish béchamel sauce and served, for lunch, with a crisp salad and a glass of chilled white wine."

Anton Edelman, of the Savoy, fills croissants with a not-too-runny leek and ham sauce, "or finely diced spicy sausage". Restaurateur Michel Roux treats them "like a sophisticated sandwich bread" and proposes an extravagant filling — "a light foie gras mousse". Another Roux use is a slice of Emmentaler or Cantal cheese, "nothing too strong or soft".

Lorna Wing, the party caterer, often proffers mini-croissants as canapés, served hot or cold. Inventive fillings include

chèvre, pesto and sun-dried tomatoes, or duck liver pâté, cornichons, black olives and silverskin onions. She also substitutes croissants for the wafer-thin Chinese pancakes wrapped around Peking duck.

Anne Willan, the owner of La Varenne, the professional cook's school at the Château du Fey, and author of the new *Look & Cook* guides published by Dorling Kindersley, creates almond croissants. "Slice, then drizzle each half with 1-2tbsp sugar syrup, created by melting equal parts of sugar with water. Beat a little more sugar syrup into 2tbsp almond spread (marzipan) until it's soft

enough to smear over the croissant, inside and on top. Sprinkle with slivered almonds and bake in a 160C oven until brown, which takes about ten minutes."

Amie Carluccio, of the Neal Street Restaurant, Covent Garden, London, gives the croissant an Italian twist, tucking in tiny cubes of mozzarella and parma ham before baking. Carluccio's passion for *funghi* produced a mushroom croissant recipe: "Make a ragout with a mixture of seasonal mushrooms sautéed in a little butter with a hint of garlic and abundant parsley, spooned into the middle of the croissant when cooked."

"Supermarket croissants can be very good," says Henrietta Green, author of *New Country Kitchen* (Conran/Octopus, £20). "But if they need to be 'revived', brush lightly with melted butter and place in a medium-hot oven for ten minutes." She fills them with baked asparagus brushed with oil and sea salt, places them on a lightly oiled tray, and cooks for ten minutes at 170C.

For pudding — or an exotic breakfast — she marinates small strawberries in orange juice, drains, then places them inside the croissant on a bed of whipped double cream, chopped mint leaves and orange zest.

JOSEPHINE FAIRLEY

THE British have some very entrenched opinions about French attitudes to food. The good-home-cooking addict shudders at foreign ways with silly things like snails and frogs, whereas the more sophisticated hold that the French have been granted divine revelation in these matters. But even those will conclude: "Of course, they don't give a damn about the animals they eat."

French callousness is legendary in the British mind. But the ugly truth is that cruelty to pets and farm animals in this country is rising sharply. On the larger farms, agribusiness has reduced the animal/human contact to a matter of profit margins, which take no account of either callousness or kindness.

Food, in France, has not yet been presented from the animal's point of view, but Britain has a chance to influence welfare standards throughout the European community by pointing out the inherent cruelty of certain

KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

systems, such as the battery hen cage or the veal crate, and by showing that higher welfare systems produce as good or better food equally profitably.

At Quantock Veal's farms, calves are reared in groups of about 20 in straw-filled pens, have room to play, warm bedding, and roughage. Insofar as any meat rearing is humane, this system is a model — and it could ease its way into Europe. Some French supermarkets are taking English veal: the reason for darker colour has been accepted.

With that in mind, use English veal for continental recipes. The only difference is in colour — and kindness. The same applies to using high-welfare pig meat.

Here is a dinner party dish that can be assembled ahead and popped into the oven as you sit down for the starter.

Escalopes de Veau Orloff

(serves 4)
14oz/400g veal cut for schnitzel or escalopes
1oz/30g butter
small tin liver pâté (not of course, foie gras)
4oz/100g cooked rice
4oz/100g onions
4oz/100 mushrooms
3tbsp brandy
2tbsp grated Parmesan cheese

Beat out the veal to 1/4in/3mm thick. Then cut in pieces 3in/7cm square. Fry each side for 30 seconds in hot butter, and drain. Process the rice, onions and mushrooms, and season well. Spread each veal piece with liver pâté. Pile the onion mixture neatly over top. Place on ovenproof platter and sprinkle with brandy, then with cheese. Bake in the oven at 180C for about 15 minutes until the cheese is golden.

This week and next *The Times* is offering readers half-price accommodation at 100 French hotels — each with a wine list to savour

Picking the best for the guests

How do you choose a good wine list that you can present throughout the year, in all the hotels in a large chain? Mercure Hotels begins the process in August each year, when it invites offers from wine producers in Burgundy, Bordeaux and the Côtes du Rhône. There are important criteria to be fulfilled by applicants even at this early stage: an existing reputation, reasonable prices and, not to be forgotten, guarantee of a sufficient volume of the wine for it not to run out before Christmas.

While the wine-makers are busy bringing in the new harvest, M Bertrand Lebugle, chef de produit at Mercure Hotels, studies the offers; and in October, when the harvesters have mopped their brows, he sets up a tasting of candidate wines.

A large party of wine experts, wine journalists, connoisseurs and ordinary drinkers gathers first in Lyons for the Burgundy, then in Bordeaux for the claret. The wine experts, incidentally, fall into two divisions: the oenologists and the sommeliers. The first are the technical experts, the chemists of wine; the second are the masters of the palate — they have "more of the poet in them" says M

Lebugle, who qualifies for both camps.

The aim is to find six burgundies (including one white), five clarets (also including one white), and eventually a Côtes du Rhône — a total of twelve for the next year's wine list. The tasters are arranged in tables in Bordeaux, for instance, one table will taste 15 St Estèphes, another will taste 15 Pomerols.

Each table tastes blind — the bottles are unlabelled — and its members must come up with one choice. They are concerned with nose, taste, colour — all the qualities that make wine good — and also with readiness for drinking, because by New Year the choices will be on sale in the hotel dining rooms. Of course none of the wine from the current harvest is included — that will not even be in bottle yet.

So with the New Year the list is ready. Mercure Hotels keeps the price mark-up to a small margin, and the price range at table of the current 1992 list is between 95 francs for a 1989 Châteauneuf-du-Pape and 174 francs for a top burgundy, Volnay-Caillerets 1986. Mercure Hotels believe it would be hard to drink a grand vin at those prices anywhere else, except in your own home.

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IN MONDAY'S TIMES

Your chance to sail to France half-price with Hoverspeed SeaCat on Monday in *The Times* we start the first of our Passport to France travel offers — see *The Sunday Times* for details



A nose for quality: sampling the vintage in the Jura

HOW TO BOOK

Over the next 12 weeks *The Times* is presenting a season of accommodation and travel offers to help you to rediscover France. Our Passport to France series gives readers the exclusive opportunity to enjoy some of the finest hotels in the country. *Times* readers are offered as much as 50 per cent off the standard tariff at their choice of a hundred hotels throughout France this summer.

This superb offer with Mercure and Altea Hotels enables you to plan a family holiday, stop over on business, or simply relax with a weekend break. Whatever your choice, you could pay as little as FF200 (about £20) per night for a family of four. You will need to collect ten different tokens from those printed in both *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until Saturday June 13.

The offer is available at participating Mercure and Altea hotels from June 20,



The charm of café culture

They are down in numbers but strong on literary history. Robin Young dawdles through some of Paris's remaining cafés

The life support system of French culture is the café. Where English and Irish poets, playwrights and prodigies look to the pub for consolation, comfort and company, in France the ready refuge which serves as an instant source of inspiration and inebriation has traditionally been the café.

Now the French café is under threat. Victims of economics, changing lifestyles and fast-food franchises which gobble up street frontages, French cafés have been reduced in number by 70 per cent since 1920.

Paris nine years ago had 12,000 cafés. Now, according to Robert Henry, vice-president of their trade syndicate, there are fewer than 5,000. Part of the trouble is that cafés encourage customers to dawdle. A Parisian café operating at customary speed might serve only a few dozen customers in the time a McDonald's or a Quick Burger restaurant feeds a thousand. In bidding for prime commercial sites on busy streets and strategic corners, it is an unequal contest.

Look at the Champs-Élysées, and it is easy to see the result. Fast-food outlets proliferate, and to save Fouquet's from becoming another, Jack Lang, the culture minister, had to declare the establishment a cultural monument in 1988. But then Fouquet's, where James Joyce dined regularly in the 1930s, has long been a fashionable restaurant rather than a café, and now has branches at La Défense and alongside the Opéra Bastille.

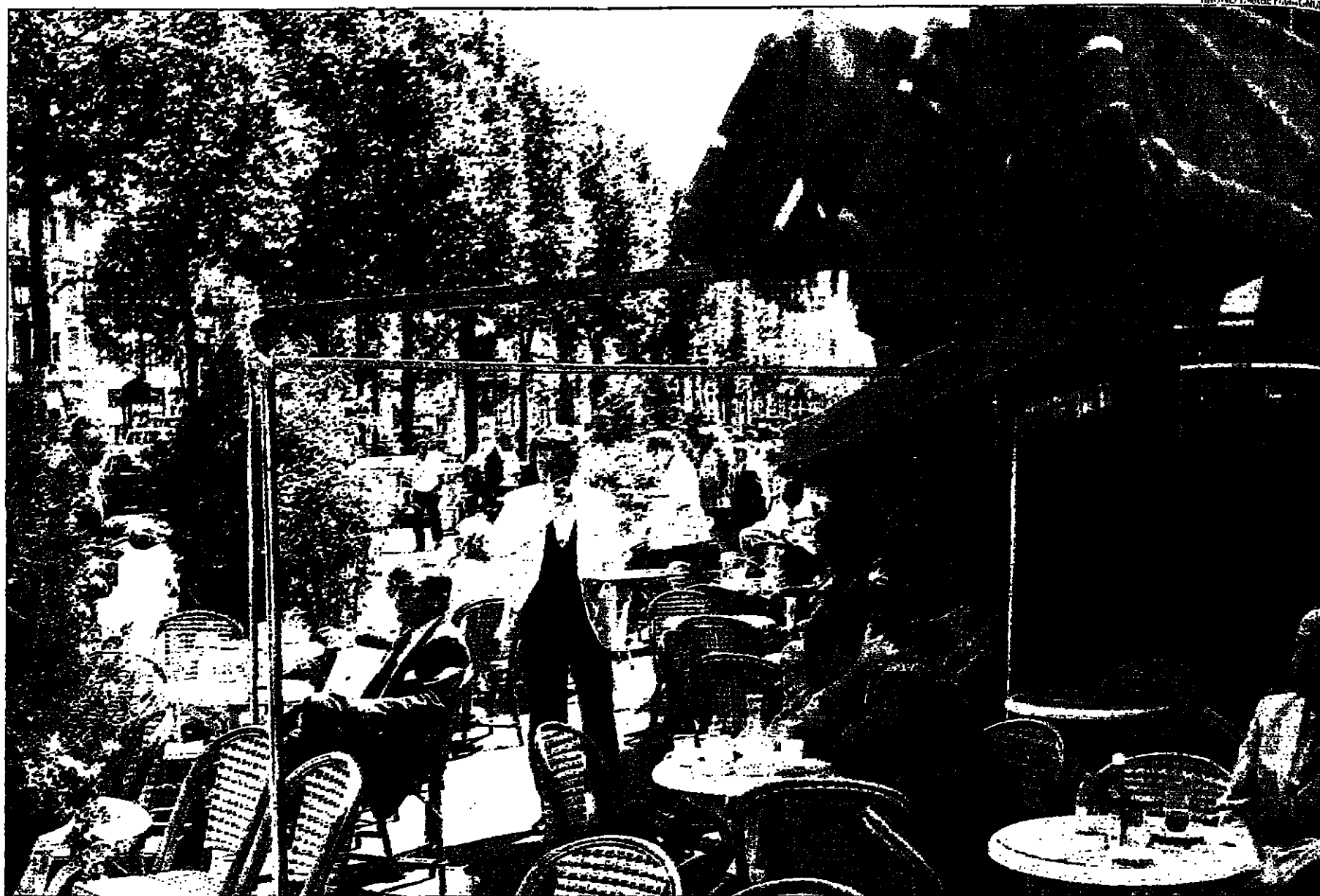
Some other Parisian cafés which have become national institutions have undergone similar transformations. The oldest of all, Le Procope, where Voltaire allegedly drank 40 cups of coffee a day, has been in the rue de l'Ancienne-Comédie since 1686, but it continues now as a restaurant, tarted up

in boudoir pink for the tourists, flaunting its associations with Benjamin Franklin, Rousseau and Beaumarchais. Robespierre and Danton, but offering, I thought, mediocre food on its FF69 and FF98 menus (about £7 and £10).

In Montparnasse the Café du Dôme has a décor by Slavik featuring dark wood, mirrors and brass and looks like a film set. But look closely at the peachy gauze drapes and you realise they are tatty and overdue for a trip to the laundry. The Dôme has spawned a fish shop behind, and a glitzy little fish bistro on the other side of Rue Delambre, but a test meal in the room which used to serve Sartre, de Beauvoir and Beckett revealed two sad cases of scallop abuse, one overcooked, one raw, and cost us FF578.

Across the Boulevard du Montparnasse is La Rotonde, whose management gave Le Dôme its first incursion of intellectual clientele by refusing to serve a lady who was smoking and not wearing a hat. That provoked a migration across the street. Simone de Beauvoir was born in the building upstairs, and Hemingway, who became a regular, had Jake Barnes in *The Sun Also Rises* say that "no matter what café in Montparnasse you ask a taxi driver to bring you to from the right bank of the river, they always take you to the Rotonde". They would not be doing you any special favour today: La Rotonde has become an honest, but ordinary, red plush brasserie. Its greatest advantage is a terrace which gets all the best of the sun. An acceptable test meal of oxtail terrine, steak tartare and chips, beer and coffee cost FF180.

Three doors down from Le Dôme, La Coupole was always a brasserie, serving moderately priced meals near the popular Montparnasse drinking places.



Service in the slow lane: cafés are outnumbered by fast-food restaurants on the Champs-Élysées, but many prefer the relaxed pace of France's traditional comfort stops

Léon-Paul Fargue described it as "the pavement university where young poets and painters learnt the bohemian life, contempt for the middle classes, humour, and how to hold a glass". Completely rebuilt since 1988 and fully restored and reinstated in a new, enlarged building, La Coupole has swiftly reclaimed its place as college dining hall to all Paris. With seats for 600, it still often has queues.

The décor has been faithfully revived, the service is brisk and friendly, the menu revised at every meal time, and the cooking is reliably good. What you spend will depend on how much you eat but will never be exorbitant. I can recommend the *fruits de mer, croustillant de ris de veau, le breadcrumbed pigs' trotter (pié de porc pané)* and caramelised orange tart. A call at La Coupole should be on everyone's Paris itinerary.

It would be nice, though, if they

could also find time for Le Sélect, where an inebriated Hart Crane was arrested and whence Isadora Duncan led her protest against the Sacco and Vanzetti death sentences. Le Sélect is now the least changed of all the Montparnasse literary shrines.

It calls itself (at night in rather startling lilac and green neon lights) an American Bar (which only means it has tables). It is, in fact, a café of unreconstructed style, with Madame Sélect still seated on her high chair opposite the entrance. There are paintings, photographs and posters on the walls, a *pointe culture* distributes leaflets for concerts and art exhibitions, and the Menu Sélect (*hors d'oeuvre, plat du jour and a glass of house red*) is FF98.

At either end of Boulevard du Montparnasse the Café François Coppée at 1bis is now very ordinary but La Closerie des Lilas

at No 171, a coaching inn before it attracted Hemingway and Samuel Beckett, still has a lot of charm, with its open terrace for expensive coffee, a brasserie on the Montparnasse side and a formal (and disappointing, though full) restaurant toward Notre-Dame-des-Champs.

Another concentration of left bank literary cafés is at St-Germain-des-Prés. Inevitably tourists flock to the Café des Deux-Magots, incomparably sited at its busy corner with a full view of the church. The poets Verlaine, Rimbaud and Mallarmé came here regularly, as later did Oscar Wilde, André Breton and Jean Giraudoux, and the Deux-Magots retains its literary connections assiduously, sponsoring a literary prize. Deux-Magots is a good place for power breakfasts (complete FF70), but not cheap. Two doors away is the Café de

Flore, where Apollinaire founded *Les Soirées de Paris*. During the war Sartre and de Beauvoir more or less set up home here, working at tables beside the toilets and the telephones in the quiet room on the first floor. Now the Flore has a souvenir shop a couple of doors down the Rue St-Benoît. The worn red banquettes of the ground-floor room no longer host meetings of the Pouilly Club de France (members: Lawrence Durrell, Truman Capote, Ernest Hemingway), but there are usually people scribbling in notebooks or pads. Of course, it might only be a travel diary.

Down Rue St-Benoît the Petit St-Benoît has lapsed from a good local brasserie to a very so-so restaurant, but across the Boulevard St-Germain the Brasserie Lipp remains a classic of the genre, completely different in style from La Coupole. Where La Coupole is as public as a railway station, Lipp,

is discreet and conspiratorial.

A previous owner of Lipp won the *Legion d'Honneur* for running the best literary salon in Paris. Earlier, the *Nouvelle Revue Française* was headquartered here. The good news is that Lipp is still a classic Alsatian brasserie. The specialties are simple and traditional dishes, such as Baltic herring and *cervelas remoulade* (both FF40) and *jarret de porc aux lentilles* (FF84) and *choucroute garnie* (FF89). All are served in overfacing quantities.

Ernest Hemingway thought "hunger was good discipline". He recounted in *A Moveable Feast* how Sylvia Beach, the owner of the famous bookshop Shakespeare and Company, met him during one of the fasts he undertook to gear himself up to write, and promptly packed him off to Lipp to get a good lunch. It would still be an admirable prescription.

Boules gets on the ball



FRENCH CONNECTIONS

Charlotte Rampling: "Paris is what enchants me most about France, and that's why I live close by. I'm a solitary creature and I don't like having much of a social life. Some people get a sense of well-being from living in the country, but although I love nature, I need that feeling of being anonymous in a crowd. I like taking the Metro into the city and wandering around, mingling with the crowds. I walk for miles, stopping off at art galleries and cafés, and I often take a notebook and write down my thoughts and general observations. I find it very inspiring. I've lived in many cities — New York, LA, Rome, Milan and London — but Paris is where I feel most at home, especially in a creative sense. I once lived in the south of France, but I didn't like it at all. I felt terribly cut off from reality there."

Gastronome's guide to shopping

Frances Bissell suggests where to go if, like her, you are more interested in food than fashion

There are at least three ways I know of to get the best out of shopping in Paris, or at least the kind of shopping I like, which has everything to do with the kitchen and nothing to do with the wardrobe, although it usually involves a detour or two past a perfumerie.

One method is to target all or some of the department stores. BHV or Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville and La Samaritaine are relatively close to each other, the first at 52 rue de Rivoli and the second by the river at 19 rue de la Monnaie. Cookware, kitchen gadgets, table linen and hardware are the things to look for in these lovely turn-of-the-century buildings.

Behind L'Opéra in Boulevard Haussmann, Le Printemps and Galeries Lafayette are close enough to tackle in the same morning. Prisunic, Inno and Monoprix, the cheap and cheerful as opposed to the *chic et cher*, are to be found throughout Paris. Monoprix, on L'Avenue de l'Opéra, is centrally situated, and both the *alimentation* and *kitchenware* sections are small but reasonably well stocked and useful if you are staying nearby.

Inno, opposite the Tour Montparnasse, which also has a branch of Galeries Lafayette, is larger and with a wider range of stock. This is the place to look for the new Puget olive oil *primeur*, made from slightly immature olives, green, fruity and peppery, about FF20 (£2) for half a litre.

The best food hall in a department store is at Au Bon Marché, 22 rue de Sévres; petits pois, cassoulet, confit, flageolet, lentilles du Puy, the packet of chicory that lasts for years and years, bitter dark chocolate, vanilla pods, the highly coloured boxes of sugar with the picture of the parrot, nut oils and aged vinegars are all to be found here. If you only have time for a one-stop shop in Paris, this is the place to do it. But it is easy to get carried away. What are you going to do with that poulet de Bresse (about FF100 for a fairly small bird), the pots of crème fraîche, the net of irresistible Belle de Fontenay potatoes, the blushing apricots, the huge bunches of fresh herbs?

If you only have time for a quick shop, for goodness sake



Chocaholics anonymous: Paris is the place for the chocolate connoisseur, or perhaps (right) you would prefer a cake



Specialist's choice: displaying cheese for every occasion

do not step out of Au Bon Marché into rue du Bac. This is possibly everyone's favourite street. Paris has a special feature: wherever you stay it is part of a neighbourhood, for this is a place where the inhabitants do live in the city. As a result, all the necessities of daily life are outside your front door. There will be a boulangerie, one or two small restaurants, a bar, a florist, a pâtisserie, a pharmacy, a *laiterie*, perhaps a bookshop or a *papeterie*, a small chic dress shop and a gallery. Rue du Bac is like this, only more so. It is the perfect street for the other kind of Paris shopping,

the neighbourhood browse, where you are not looking for anything in particular but will see much to tempt you.

In rue du Bac, for example, you will come across a branch of Lenoir, the pâtisserie, and just a few streets away is Christian Constant, who many regard as the best *chocolatier* in Paris. In the pharmacy I am always tempted into buying dried herbs for tisanes, which the *pharmacie* scoops into Cellophane packets: fragrant tilleul and spicy verveine, as well as expensive rose petals and mixtures of cornflowers and marigolds: tableware at Diners en



Ville, fresh flowers from Jean Vassal and posh groceries from Hédiard, all in rue du Bac, and you have everything for an instant dinner party.

Other favourite streets are the bohemian rue Montfard, not far from the Jardin des Plantes, rue Montorgueil, near what was les Halles and still full of good food shops, including *traiteurs*, butchers, a boulangerie, pâtisserie and a small market. Rue de Grenelle, across the Esplanade des Invalides, winds along to the Eiffel Tower parallel to rue St Dominique, both good streets for leisurely shopping and crossed by rue Cler, which has a very good market where you will find large round loaves of *pain de campagne*, unpasteurised butter, cheeses of every description, charcuterie, meat, poultry, fruit, flowers, herbs and vegetables of the highest quality, and equally high prices. Cheaper and just as pleasant is the market on Boulevard Edgar Quinet.

Paris is the place for specialist shopping. For the chocolate connoisseur, apart from Christian Constant who also has a shop at 37 rue d'Assas, there is Robert Linx, of La Maison du Chocolat at 8 boulevard Madeleine, 52 rue François Ter and 225 rue du Faubourg St Honoré; Lenoir, with several branches in the city; Jean Paul Hevin at 3 rue Vavin and 16 avenue de la Motte Picquet; Fouquet at 36 rue Lafitte and 22 rue François ler; Richart at 58 rue Lafayette and 258 Boulevard Saint Germain and, the oldest chocolate shop in Paris, Debaube et Gallais at 30 rue des Saints Pères and recently at 33 rue Vivienne. E. Dehillerin at 18-20 rue

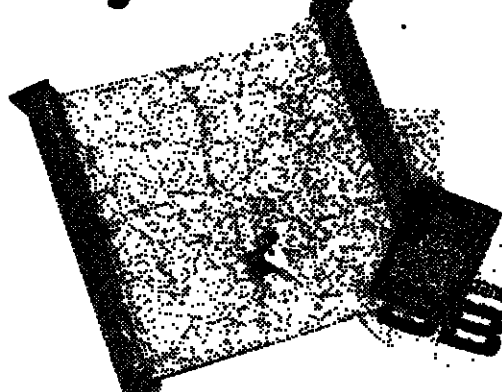
Coquillière is the place for cookware and kitchen gadgets, where everything is of the highest quality. Duthilleul and Minart at 14 rue de Turbigo sell workwear for chefs, and is an excellent place to buy tea towels and long aprons made of tough cotton.

At 6 rue Vauvilliers, you will find Le Temps Retrouvé, which, as its name suggests, is a treasure trove of 19th-century domestic life — china, cutlery, glassware, table linen and old lace. Some of these things you will also find in Au Bain Marie in rue Boissy d'Anglas, just past the Clillon and the Place de la Concorde and possibly my favourite shop in Paris. Upstairs, to the left, is the small library of secondhand cookbooks in French and other languages. Across the landing is the fabric section, modern and antique. Downstairs is modern, repro and antique tableware, beautiful show plates, dinner services, boxes of cutlery, elegant glassware and cocktail shakers.

Near the Gard du Nord you will find the Marché St Quentin, Anfrère et fils and Bardou. The market offers fresh produce and the two grocery shops, dry goods and dairy produce. Both have an excellent range of mature champagnes at fair prices.

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Mon Dieu! The life of a simple man is awful hard

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed a certain creeping Frenchness in this newspaper of late. Radio 4 listeners have been alerted to find it spreading even as far as *The Archers*, and television seems awash with it. Clearly it is far too late to spray against this Francophilia, so I too decided to sit back and enjoy its rioting blossoms with the rest.

Over half-term, this family abandoned sheep (and cattle, and pigs) to sail across the Channel. For once, I exchanged my heavy boots and even heavier outlook on life for a lightly shod and jauntily natured visit to the western edges of Brittany, where even les moutons oblige diners by grazing the salt marshes and becoming, as the menus put it, pre-salted. (We happen to have a field which has become infested with wild mint and I am wondering if I could achieve an equally natural flavour-

ing effect by putting the lamb to graze on it.)

I took a little light reading on my French excursion. I had unearthed in a second-hand bookshop a volume first published in France in 1904, which apparently took Paris by storm. It is *The Life of a Simple Man*, by Emile Guillaumin, and is the story of Etienne Berin, otherwise known as Tiennon, a countryman M Guillaumin took up with. It is not romantic. On the back cover it says: "His world is one of unremitting toil; he is cheated by landlords and patronised by smart city people. In the fields there is a ceaseless battle against crop failures and the vagaries of the weather." The front cover bears a detail from a Van Gogh sketch of



some poor bent-backed devil hoeing, just as I have been doing in the summer pursuit of "chop-pin" art mangles. It is the time of year when the mangel-wurzel seeds germinate, and to ensure fully grown mangels as big as cannon balls they have to be thinned to about a foot apart. It is done with a hoe, backwards and forwards all day long, row after row. It hurts. Smart city people in green wellies look over the hedge and probably patronise me while I do it. This is clearly my sort of book.

Old Tiennon looked the part. "A dear old fellow, all bent with age, unable to walk without the help of his hazel stick. He has a thin fringe of white beard, and a wart on the side of his nose... a big cotton



smock with a leather belt, baggy blue trousers, a woollen cap turned down over his ears and sabots of beechwood bound with iron hoops." He has certain endearing habits, like halting his oxen at the

end of every furrow for a pinch of snuff (for him, not them) in winter, and in summer taking a pinch between every swipe of his scythe. His account of country life is unvarnished, not at all the stuff

charm passing admen into writing bestsellers. At six years old he tended sheep for long hours in the hot sun, dreading snakes. In adolescence he went courting, a fairly dour affair ("As well you as another," she said). In youth he watched his parents and grand-mother dreading ruin at the landlord's hand ("The lawyers will take our all. They will sell our furniture and our tools at auction. Ah, mon Dieu!"). His family epitaph was: "He was very old, worn out, but he wasn't a burden. He worked right to the end." Which sounds just like farming life anywhere else.

Obviously this book will never be a bestseller. Having reluctantly accepted that our own rural dream is long since buried beneath fields of rape and out-of-town hypermarkets, we prefer our images of the French farming landscape to be incurably romantic. Our French farmer is still the one in the

television commercials: a casual man, amid chickens which cackle endearingly and ripe grapes which cascade from the vine: a man who can finish work in time for endless hours in the shade, sipping rough red wine and dining simply off the fruits of the land, with his black-clad granny and M le Cure alongside. His life, we suppose, is one long furrow in Provence, and we do not want to know about his back-ache. Or, to bring it up to date, his subsidy problems.

I put the book aside and tried to enjoy the holiday. I do not suppose the French farmer is at heart much different from the British, except that he is readier to take to the streets and barricades when he thinks his government has failed him. In the long run, I doubt he sees much future on the land. But he has given me a few ideas, has Tiennon. Does anybody know where I can buy snuff these days?

Boules gets on the ball

William Langley reports on the new Olympic sport of 'glorified marbles'

Barring the possibility of their team bus being hit by a meteorite on its way to the ground, the French look ragging certainties to carry off the first ever Olympic boules title in Barcelona this summer. Should they fail, the shame is likely to be more than this nation of devoted boules players can bear. Old hands still recall how, after the disgrace of being knocked out of the world championships by Morocco a decade ago, the national squad was virtually sent into exile. Now the French are not only back on top, but so far ahead of the rest of the world that it might just save everyone's time to post the gold medals to Paris.

Yvon Delverre, the national education officer in the Nice district, says: "Boules is a game that develops the virtues of skill, character, precision and patience. At first there was some resistance from parents, who associated it with dodging work and drinking. But I cannot imagine how time playing boules could ever be misspent."

Boules has not only become popular but chic. English visitors to the south of France may recall watching it played on hot afternoons under the shade of walnut trees listening to the reassuring clunkety-clunk of metal balls colliding in the dust, and the jostling banter of Patis-swilling peasants in berets, who seemed to have wandered in from Marcel Pagnol stories.

Such enchanting vignettes of village life can still be found, but serious boules — or pé-

tanque, as it is properly known — has moved on. In the last decade, the number of registered players has doubled, and today the Fédération Française de Pétanque (FFP) has nearly 500,000 members. At least half play in the once uncolonised territory north of the Loire, and almost 40 per cent are aged under 25.

As anyone who has recently visited a piste in one of the more fashionable quarters of Paris or Lyons will know, there have been even more startling changes. Throughout its history, boules has been not only male-dominated but positively hostile to women. Yet most newly registered players under 21 are female.

Mixed boules has become the real growth area, propelling the game out of its whiskery, working-class confines and into a realm of popular appeal for the metropolitan young. Above all, boules has become an escape from inactivity, rather than an excuse for it. People used to say that playing boules regularly was like admitting to a drink problem, but today's image is one of wholesome, skill and fitness.

Gabriel Renier, a Lyon-based sports researcher, has calculated that in the course of a tournament a top class boules player will throw a ton of metal a distance of half a mile. He will walk, or run, five miles, and perform the equivalent of 1,000 squat-jumps. "And all of this combined with the most intense mental concentration," he says, adding: "Boules players are some of



Vive la change: boules was once a fiercely men-only game in France, but now most of the players registering with the governing body are women

the best-conditioned athletes in the world."

Physical prowess on this scale partly explains the acceptance of boules as an exhibition sport at the Olympics. But not everyone is happy about its inclusion, notably the international Olympic committee's president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who has reportedly described it as "glorified marbles".

In concept, the game is endearingly simple. One player throws a small wooden marker ball (the *cochonnet*) and the players of both sides then try to pitch their own boules as close to it as possible. The skill is not simply in landing close to the *cochonnet*, but in blasting other players' boules away from it. The last stages of a game look like a heavy-metal version of space invaders, with boules being zapped in all directions.

From Provence, the game spread through the rest of France and to such improbable outposts as Bulgaria, Thailand, and even Britain, where the British Petanque Association has about 5,000 mem-

bers. (It is a matter of some distress to the French that the forerunner of their national game was probably invented by the English. When the Armada sailed up the Channel, Sir Francis Drake was playing not bowls, but a game that involved lobbing cannon balls on to a gravel surface. We have lost the knack; in world rankings we are rated somewhere below Madagascar.)

As the game has grown bigger and richer, however, it has inevitably grown dirtier. Operating around big French cities are *pétanque* "mafias", which run illicit competitions for big money and take illegal bets on the results. Top hustlers like "the Chinaman", whose summer pitch is near the Place de la Nation in Paris, claim to make £800 a day. But even the sharpest hus-

ters can use a little help. The tricks range from blowing the nose when an opponent is throwing, to the application of some sophisticated dynamic technology. One wheeze of the hustlers is the *boule farcie*: a boule is hollowed out and filled with a small amount of mercury, which stabilises the boule in flight and makes it brake the moment it hits the ground, giving the thrower

much greater precision. Other boules are imperceptibly squared-off, limiting their tendency to roll. The FFP is reluctant to acknowledge the extent of hustling or the creeping semi-official professionalism of the game. It is, in any case, difficult to see what it could do. As in other popular sports, top players judge their skill by the money they can make.

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Gunning for the hunters

Feather report

Perhaps the greatest difference between the English and the French lies in our attitudes to animals. The largest wildlife charity in Europe is British the RSPB with £50,000 members. The French prefer their birds dead; they shoot them in colossal numbers, often illegally. And although there are signs of change, the killing continues.

Take the annual turtle dove shoot in the Medoc here 2,000 shooting towers have stood for years, erected beneath the migration flyways from sub-Saharan Africa. And here the birds are slaughtered in their thousands.

They fly on, if lucky, to breed all over northern Europe, including this country, where their sleepy tur-tur-ing makes one of the great sounds of the English summer.

The French shoot them in spring, the most destructive time for breeding stock.

One would expect the French being French, that the hunters would at least eat what they kill. But no. A bird at the end of a migration route is more feather and bone. They are shot for fun of shooting.

This is against both French and European law. Enforcing it is another matter. With getting on for 2 million hunters in France, no politician wants to lose the hunting vote.

However, there is a fledgling opposition to the hunters. When the turtle dove shooting took place a couple of weeks back, there was a demonstration by four French conservation organisations, led by the



Jacques

Ligue Française pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO).

These are brave people: demonstrators have been threatened with death. This year, huge numbers of police in riot gear, and with dogs, came to supervise the shoot. An international conservation group that included Mike Everett of the RSPB, was told not to approach the shooters. Even with the big police presence, the authorities could not guarantee their safety.

In short, the French turned over the Medoc to a large, armed bunch of law-breakers. "It was an ugly weekend," Mr Everett says. "Our car was

pelted with eggs and paint bombs, kicked and punched."

But these courageous people are getting somewhere. There is a growing enthusiasm for conservation in France, especially among the young. Membership of the LPO has doubled to 10,500 in the past five years.

It would be wonderful to think that this is an early indication of a radical change in French thinking. There is some fine conservation legislation in France: what is needed is greater will to enforce it. Vive la France verte.

SIMON BARNES

SURVIVAL TIPS

Old trainers and a few good stories

● **Think feet.** Even pink paving-stones get hard after eight hours. Do not even consider fashion. Very old trainers would do nicely.

● **Get there early.** Really early. On holiday weekends Euro Disney sometimes opens at eight: check. Unless you are sure it is a slack day (say, a wet Thursday in November) forget any idea of strolling up Main Street with no fixed plan of action. Get a map and have a strategy.

● **Go straight to the rides** which will attract longest queues. With under-fives the Peter Pan Flight, the Dumbo Flyers, the train, Pinocchio, Snow White etc. With older children the Pirates of the Caribbean, Big Thunder Mountain, Phantom Manor and Star Tours. For any age, the maze, the whirling teacups and the carousel. You can always go back and join the queues for another go later.

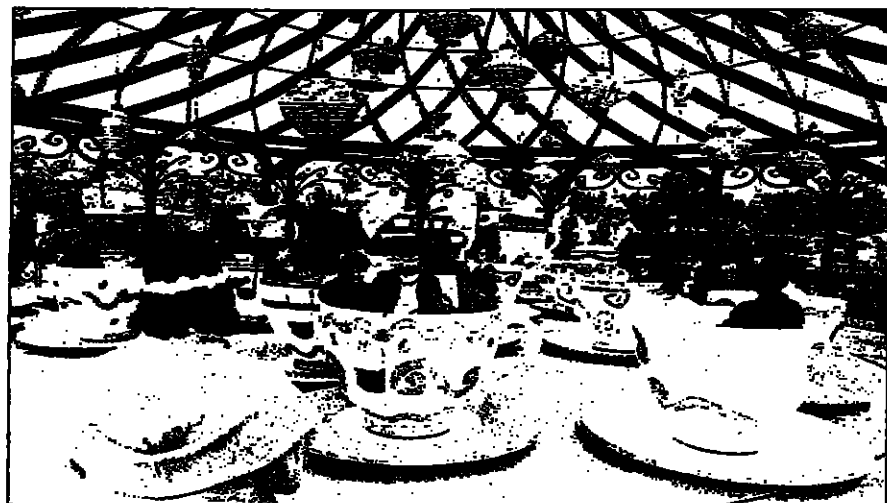
● **Devise things to do in queues.** We paid the children one franc for each concealed loudspeaker they spotted. We wished we had known more about the old Caribbean,

Wild West miners etc. A few good hair-raising stories would shorten the queue. The French are rather bad at queueing. It does no harm to spread your family out sideways across the full width of the track to prevent teenagers sidling past you.

● **Picnics are banned inside the park** (some rucksacks get searched for sandwiches) but there is a left-luggage office at the entrance and a picnic area outside. Inside, the fast-food catering and restaurants are good, but pricey. Calculate at least 40F per head.

● **Take a folding umbrella.**

● **Meeting:** If you are a scattering sort of family, a good meeting place is by the Sword Excalibur in Fantasyland beside the pink castle. All four worlds have entrances nearby. There is a corner on the bottom right of Main Street USA with a bare brick wall and a sign saying "Dr Johnson's Pink Pills for Pale People", next to the Bicycle Shop. The management may not want you all to know this, but we discovered that this is where Mickey, Goofy and so on emerge from at intervals.



Ride with a gentle touch: climb on a flying saucer for the mad hatter's tea party



Queue with a sting in the tail: the wait for Big Thunder Mountain starts here

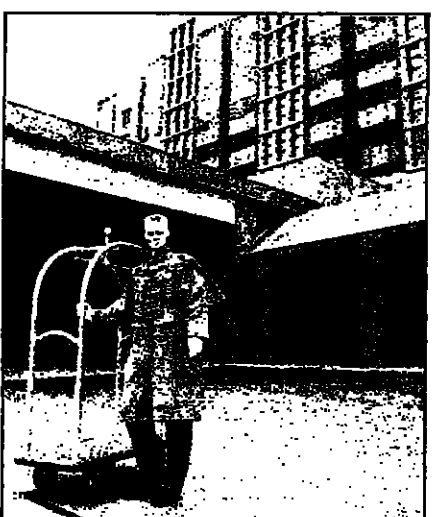
WHERE TO STAY

● **Euro Disney entry fee:** £25.50 adult, £15 child. Opening times 9am-7pm April to end Oct; 10am-6pm Nov to April; Christmas, Easter, July and August weekends, 9am-midnight.

● **Hotels** (in descending order of luxury, from £293 to £58 per night for a room sleeping four): Disneyland — the pink manor house New York — Manhattan without muggings Newport Bay Club — Gatsby style Sequoia Lodge — rustic but ritzy Chelyenne — Wild West Santa Fe — with volcano

● **Camp Davy Crockett** — self-catering bungalows for six from £93 per night, or camping-caravanning plots for £27.

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FRANCE PAR EXCELLENCE



Euro Disney is not for French purists. But despite some ragged cultural edges, after a weekend Libby Purves and her family were hooked on France's newest attraction, and hardly noticed the queues or the rain

Halfway round Big Thunder Mountain, shrieking out of a tunnel at 45 degrees into the rain with the G-forces wreaking havoc on my plastic Minnie Mouse ears, I wondered briefly whether I was enjoying this. Then the runaway mine-train eased pace artfully to take us by an almost intolerably romantic view of a paddlesteamer passing an Indian canoe on a broad Wild Western river, and creaked slowly past a mountain shack outside which hung hillbilly washing, with a robotic goat tugging and munching at the leg of the jeans. And I decided that after all, I probably was. There is nothing quite like having your emotions manipulated by masters of the art. The wagon plunged horribly. "Yaaaaahhh!" shrieked my son and daughter, free from introspection, liking it a lot.

I suppose it would have been nice to report in a newspaper of this high tone that the children, upon being told that we were to road-test Euro Disney for the weekend, merely glanced up from their opera scores and said: "Oh Mum, does that mean less time in the Louvre?" But we have clearly actually been to Euro Disney. What they actually did was to shout "Yo!" and begin hurling garish shell-suits into their rucksacks. Like it or not, Euro Disney is set to be The Big Treat for middling British families.

Never mind that travel analysts say continental prices mean the average family of four could go to Florida cheaper: the likelihood is that thousands of European parents who would never entertain the idea of flogging out to Florida on a squalid charter flight will yield to the idea of a local, weekend Disneyland on their very doorstep.

So off we went in pioneering spirit. After the razzmatazz press and TV launch, it seemed to be time for an average family (aged 43, 42, nine and seven) to brave it on an average busy summer weekend — with no special escorts or privileges — and report the unvarnished truth. After a party French childhood, I had a special interest in seeing how on earth the Disney Smile would transplant on an older civilisation. Was there, I wondered, yet a French word to express "imagineering" (the Disney process of thinking up improbably wonderful rides, and building them with fanatical attention to detail)? Or "streetmosphere" (the capering of cowboys and furry ducks to raise the spirits of queues)? Would the European employees take kindly to becoming "fully themed personnel" and obeying prim rules about beards and underwear? Would the local French agree with their intellectual sagas who inveighed against the fields of Marne-la-Vallée being turned into "a confection of solidified chewing-gum portraying idiotic fairytales for obese Americans"? Or would they come in their thousands to Have a Nice Day?

We arrived late and exhausted at our on-campus hotel, which the children (devotees of *Jeeves and Wooster*) had no trouble in identifying as New York in the 1920s. We could have opted for the far cheaper campsite under the patronage of Davy Crockett, for the Cheyenne Wild-West hotel, the ritzy Newport Bay Club, or the Santa Fe where a volcano erupts on schedule twice a day. Here, Sousa marches played in the lift and themed New York bellboys smiled nervously at us in the corridors and



muttered "Bonjour". The advantage of the New York hotel is that you can walk to the entrance of the theme park in a mere ten minutes. The very top hotel, the Disneyland, actually is the entrance. It is also a bit of a shock. The architecturally sensitive parent attempting a double holiday in Paris and Euro Disney should probably do it the other way round: after the graceful weathering and roseate decay of old Paris, some may quail at this gleaming peach-pink palace, pinnacled and gabled and domed and pimpled with cupolas and surmounted with a vast Mickey Mouse clock. Our photographer, a

thoughts on the Orbitron — an imposing golden model of the planets orbited by fairly standard roundabout jets: the kind which hiss up and down anywhere from Amsterdam to Melbourne.

I suppose we were going for the familiar. We had not quite grasped what old Disneyland hands know, that you should hurl yourself straight into the most unique, bizarre, extravagant rides and ignore the mundane. So we hissed up and down in a light drizzle (this is France, not Florida) watching a member of the themed personnel in a frock-coat (representing whom? Jules Verne?) trying to get a popcorn-cart working. Then we dived down an immensely long zig-zag labyrinth into the heart of the Star Tours building while expressive, cutely big-eyed animatronic robots mopped and mowed and threatened one another with spanners in pits alongside the walkway. "It's like being in *Moonraker*," said Nicholas. Rose trembled slightly, never having been one for dark rides and not at all keen on the space capsule for which we briefly waited. Disney did not disappoint. Our chairs wavered and jolted and dived beneath us as we flew through space.

Unfortunately, we next hit upon the only burn ride in the whole park. All the other Disneylands have a "Tomorrowland". Tomorrows, however, come too fast, so for Europe the notion of a "Discoveryland" on past as well as present science was coined. At its centre lies Le Visionarium, a circular building with a 360-degree cinema screen and an animated robot.

The Timekeeper, to waffle about great scientists (European ones, of course) through the ages and conduct a time journey involving Jules Verne. The technology was stunning, but so overcrowded was the module and so tall the audience (it must be admitted that adults, on the days we went, outnumbered children 20 to one) that our children were nearly crushed in the standing audience, saw virtually nothing and could not reach a translation-phone. The Timekeeper, what is more, was a crashing bore in any language, like an unfavourable uncle showing off his holiday slides. Our feet ached miserably after 20 minutes. If Disney — or the ride's proud sponsors, Renault — wants to smarten up its act it could provide a high central platform for children and cut the robot's speech by a third. But its most interesting deficiency came at the end, when a faintly hysterical French voice kept saying "please move rapidly to the exit, these doors will close automatically" — opening the appalling prospect of another 20 minutes trapped with uncle Robot, and causing a lethal stampede. We emerged grim-faced into the rain.

It was a revealing moment. All through the day we kept seeing the ragged edges of presentation which are — to be fair — inevitable when such a European recession Disney has been able to recruit bright, pleasant, sensible young people to its "cast" from all over Europe. Their languages are impressive: it is common to see a shop assistant speak French and English while adding up in German. They come with their own, European, style. But it is not necessarily Disneyish, and as the director of the on-site "Disney University" had said early on, "everyone at Disney works from the same script". It is not yet word-perfect.

'We had not quite grasped what old Disneyland hands know: that you should hurl yourself straight into the most extravagant rides and ignore the mundane'



A scream a minute: Libby Purves



How Disney has perfected the

So it was odd to see a bright, as French boy dressed as a cowboy g helplessly at a punter who had, as the strict rules, lit up a cigarette: queue for Big Thunder Mountain, could tell that in his normal person a waiter or train conductor in France, this boy would say "Défense de fumer!" and that his or her would shrug and obediently out. But here, in this limbo American kingdom, he was hobbled by his new training. Perhaps he can remember whatever Hollywood circumlocution was expected ("I really want you to have a nice day, smoking materials are prohibited, everyone's safety and enjoyment. The effect of all this was to make deeply sympathetic to the young and anxious that one day the two should blend into a genuine

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Soothe

Nicholas's version (aged 9)



Fantasyland had architecture but too storybook. A sureland was of the best. It had animatronic rates and a rushes and sweet thought it was

the queuing too, as the queue something to look at. On the The Mountain I almost gave up on the q but there were nice things to look at: ride itself was good.

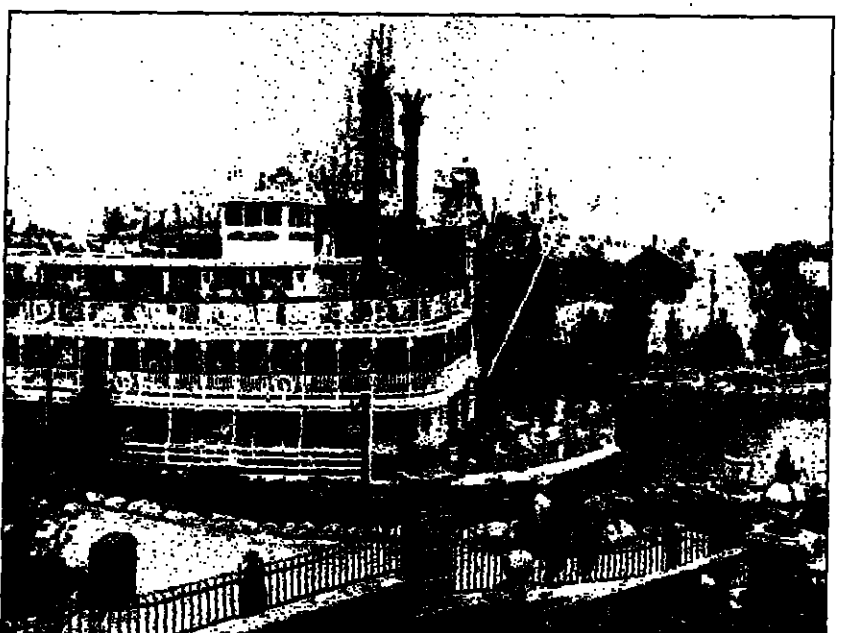
The Haunted House I thought very good. It wasn't tacky like haunted houses. The skeletons, quite likable. I thought the characters were the see-through dan characters. We also went on the Pan Flight. I think you should g some incredibly rough rides before you could use it to soothe your new didn't think much of the Pinocchio.

Even if I stayed for months I did could still be interested. Just wait around looking at the scenery is g. think it'd be best to go in the holiday you could have time to get used to hardness of life again afterwards Euro Disney the hardest thing you c queue. Going back to school is r difficult. I'm having trouble with it.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN MARKESON



In a minute: The Heiney with Nicholas and Rose take the bends on the Big Thunder Mountain railroad, through an impeccably detailed landscape where a robotic goat munches the hillbilly washing



ney has performed "steering": left, the rickety thrills of Big Thunder Mountain. Centre, tourists from Hong Kong pose at the entrance to the park. Right, the "almost intolerably romantic" paddle steamer

in a manner. So we said "Bonjour!" instead of "Howdy!". And when we saw the speechless Goofy, Mickey, and Pluto we tried to convey a little wordless solidarity, and shook great grotesque white hands. Back to the rides. The falling rain did deter the rapidly flooding day-ers; too late, we realised it was a bank holiday weekend. In the three hours we took in a lot of artful escapes from caverns to islands to the old Canyon, ate lunch in the Last Cafe in Frontierland (you feel a twit asking for "Trois Hot Beef Steers avec sweet potato fries"); but aged only two rides.

It earns a great deal, however, about art of queue landscaping. What pens is that you see a shonish, sageable queue disappearing into a tunnel or up a track, and you join

it. You shuffle forwards reasonably fast, admiring the scenery, which is flawless: the rickety old mine on Big Thunder Mountain is astonishingly real down to the detail of the hoofmarks in the concrete under your feet, and the air of picturesque decay. By the time you get restless, you can no longer see or be seen by outsiders: you are inside the attraction, trapped in a still-moving queue which turns out to be 200 people longer than you thought because it has been artfully routed through a sort of maze, made of cattle-crush barriers (all themed, of course, in distressed wood). You grow quiet and resigned. Eventually, you get on the ride, and hardly know it is an hour since you started queuing. We kept amused most of the time, despite the rain and the crowds.

And how were the rides? The mine-train was pretty stunning. The labyrinth

was brilliant. The Haunted House was long, intricate and satisfying, with every kind of hologram, trick mirror, skeleton and wraith. Again, we longed for Disney to relax and let some European style into the place: there is a brilliant entrance where the room you stand in becomes a lift, and descends, elongating the innocent paintings on the walls as it does so to reveal snakes and horrors below. But the pictures are bland and chocolate-boxy: surely in the heart of Europe they could have done pastiche Fragonards or Gainsboroughs, with Hieronymus Bosch or Francis Bacon creatures appearing beneath?

But I would have gone all the way just for the Pirates of the Caribbean. Deep underground through lantern caves, you seem to come into a hot, musty-smelling, oppressive tropical night with an uneasy full moon overhead. You board a barge

which floats, climbs, crashes and splashes through scenes of fantastic piracy acted out by animatronic robots with every nasal hair, every scar in place. When you pass a sleeping pig it is not a model pig, but twitches its leg occasionally as real pigs do. When you turn your head to see if the robots stop moving when the barge goes by, not only are they still at it, but one pirate will turn his head and wink, savagely, at you. It could only be designed by a team of dedicated obsessives: it is almost frighteningly perfect. On the second day, when we took our own advice and arrived early, we rode through it twice running and could have stayed underground all morning, marvelling.

There is a trick, used in Main Street USA at the entrance, called "forced perspective". All the buildings are at a slight angle, and some corners are

rounded off. It means that looking inwards to the park, the castle at the end seems 500 yards away. Looking back homeward with sore feet, the distance seems 100 yards. It is, in fact, 295 yards and ten inches. By the end of two days, we knew what had happened to us. Our perspective had been forced. Even Paul could hardly be parted from his Mickey Mouse ears, and Rose ("I hate stupid old Disney cartoons") was queuing for Goofy's autograph. It gets you that way.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

How to get to the fun

● **By road:** Take the A4 from Paris towards Strasbourg and follow the Marne-la-Vallée signs until a few grudging Euro Disney signs appear. The car park is linked to the theme park by moving walkway. Or travel by RER, the regional transport network, which has its own station. The TGV link from the airport will not open for another two years.

● **Paris Travel Service:** A selected Euro Disney Resort tour operator offering complete package holidays by air, rail, coach or car to all six of the resort hotels. All holidays include guaranteed unlimited free entrance to the theme park and a one-day Paris Metro pass. Sample price at the Hotel Santa Fe is £216 per person staying three nights and flying by Disney Air Express from London Gatwick. Reservations through any ABTA travel agent, or by calling Paris Travel Service on 0920 461000.

● **Airtours:** Dedicated Euro Disney Resort/Paris brochure featuring four of the resort's six themed hotels and the Davy Crockett camping ground, as well as off-site accommodation in Paris. Prices start from £199 per adult (£159 per child) including return flight, entry to Euro Disney during stay, four nights shared accommodation for up to six people at the Davy Crockett camping ground. For further information call 061-236 1558. Reservations via ABTA travel agents, or on 0706 260000.

● **Cresta:** Dedicated Euro Disney Resort brochure featuring five of the resort's themed hotels, as well as off-site accommodation. Travel by air, rail or self-drive. Family breaks start from £338 in total for two adults and two children, rising to £394 for the same family in peak season. Prices include unlimited entry to Euro Disney. Further information on 061-953 2011 or 0536 770575. Reservations via ABTA travel agents, or on 0345 056511 (London) or 061-927 7000 (Manchester).

● **Eurocamp/Sunsites:** Specialist camping operator featuring Davy Crockett camping ground all year in separate brochure. Prices start from £101 per person based on a family of two adults and two children (aged under ten) enjoying a two-night stay at Camp Davy Crockett and three-day entry tickets to Euro Disney. Further information on 0565 650022. Reservations via ABTA travel agents, or on 0565 633844.

● **Holiday Club Pontins:** Separate brochure featuring a stay at the operator's Camber Sands centre with a visit to the Euro Disney Resort. Travel from Camber Sands is either by coach or own car. Euro Disney Resort packages are from £169 for four days.

● **Wallace Arnold:** Dedicated brochure based on travel by coach and featuring all six resort hotels, plus Camp Davy Crockett. All prices include guaranteed entry to the theme park during stay. Sample price is £115 per person for a three-day tour departing from London and staying two nights at the Hotel Santa Fe, based on four sharing between April and October 1992. Children's reductions are available. Further information on 0532 661111. Reservations via ABTA travel agents or on 0532 311055 or 081-464 9696.

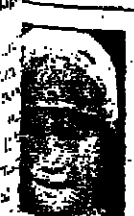
● **P&O European Ferries:** Dedicated Euro Disney brochure featuring ferry based travel to all six resort hotels and Camp Davy Crockett. All prices include unlimited entry to Euro Disney for the duration of stay. Prices from £100.25 per person for two nights at the Santa Fe or Cheyenne hotels, including ferry crossing and based on a family of two adults and two children sharing. Further information: 0304 214422. Reservations via ABTA travel agents or on 0304 214422.

● **British Airways Holidays:** Dedicated brochure featuring British Airways scheduled flights to Paris and all six Euro Disney Resort hotels. All prices include unlimited entry to the theme park for the duration of stay. Sample price is £212 per person for two nights at the Hotel Cheyenne or Santa Fe, based on four people sharing a room between April 12 and July 16, departing on a Friday. Further information on 0293 572821. Reservations via ABTA travel agents or on 0293 611911 or 061-493 3344.



Soothing nerves

Rose's version (aged 7)



I quite liked seeing the Miceys and Goofies and stuff but the rides were better. One of the good things was the Sleeping Beauty's Castle. Down in the dungeons there was a dragon that can breathe smoke. And there was a carousel which none of the others in my family thought very good but I thought it was brilliant.

Frontierland was the most exciting best land. There was the Big Thunder Mountain which was very fun. You tunnelled right under the mine in the runaway mine train. I think the best way to enjoy the great thunder train when you're hurtling through dark doing a 90-degree turn and I see a thing, is to just shut your eyes and scream.

In the pirates the best way to enjoy it is to look around you, not scream. The best way to enjoy the Time Machine is if there isn't a best way to enjoy it. It's just fun.

If you go, tell your mum and dad and everybody in your family that it will just be if it if they quarrel and be nasty to each other.

Next week, join us on a region by region tour of France. From Burgundy to the Alps, from the Loire to the Côte d'Azur, we explore the best France can offer. Packed with information on how to get there, where to stay, activities to enjoy, local specialities and property prices, our weekly guide is not to be missed. Next Saturday: The pleasures of Provence.

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French with an accent on space



The McNair-Wilsons have made a large farmhouse their home in rural France, where the pace is slow and the living is easy. Elizabeth Dickson reports

Sir Patrick and Lady McNair-Wilson (with daughters Anne and Kate, above) were exploring the Thierache area of France for a barn which they could buy for their five children, when they happened to look in the windows of a *notaire* and see an 1850s farmhouse advertised for sale. The result is their five-bedroom family home, bought in 1988 for £30,000 including the commission, with £34,000 spent on restoration and further funds spent on several hectares of land, outbuildings and creation of a new garden.

This summer most of the family are expected to come and stay, for the place now sleeps up to ten, and Lady McNair-Wilson spends up to a fortnight there each month. As Sir Patrick is busy as an MP, he makes the journey to the farmhouse, about 100 miles northeast of Paris, infrequently, but for his wife it has an increasingly strong pull. Unlike an area such as the Dordogne, few other Britons live there, although the drive takes only three hours from the Channel ports.

Lady McNair-Wilson says: "There's a strong, natural attraction about the place, and so much space that the house in Hampshire feels like a pocket-handkerchief by comparison. The view of total openness falling away to the valley adds to this sensation of space. Somehow, I notice and appreciate the changing seasons more. I love the sight of the *pigeonnier* and *étangs*, or fishponds. Life really is at a simpler pace." The house, with its two pastures and land, is within a small agricultural community.

It was through the poplar trees in the valley that German tanks were

first seen by the villagers here, and in both world wars the farmhouse was occupied by the enemy. From the time of the Barbarians, this region has always been in the path of invaders. Typical of the area are the many remote churches, which were fortified in the 16th century.

At the McNair-Wilsons' home, the pigeons belonging to M. Mathias, the Picardien farmer who is paid to mind the property during the owners' absence, have taken over the attractive arched building, and exotic poultry strut about the reshingled drive. *Nègres au soie*, Dorking cou cous and Plymouth Rocks are just three of the chicken species which Lady McNair-Wilson is easily tempted to buy — although she resists the costly cages ones on sale along the banks of the Seine. The visiting *fouine* or stone marten is the birds' adversary, and other wildlife include dormice, which initially caused havoc to the house's heating system by their choice of a flue in which to nest.

Until 50 years ago this was an important cider-producing area, and in early winter there is still a tradition of rolling the local cider press through the villages to collect windfall fruit. Calvados, made from cider and bought for £3 a litre at a nearby farm, is used by Lady McNair-Wilson for bottling *cheries*, *Ratafia de champagne* and *eau-de-vie des prunes* are inexpensive brandies, and from the villages south of Fismes champagne costs just £5 a bottle.

This large, formal farmhouse, La Maison de Jovet, is named after the once wealthy family who built it after pulling down three other houses on the site. The location is equidistant from the small market



Relaxing in the country: "There's a strong natural attraction about the place," Lady McNair-Wilson says, "life is at a simpler pace"

towns of Marle and Vervins. Many of the stallholders have become good friends — with an invitation to Lady McNair-Wilson from one to go fishing for tench, and from another the offer of fresh vegetables grown in the back garden. The best value for eating out is found at Le Huteau, the cottage restaurant in the village of Plomion. Here the five-course *menu surpris* costs FF150, and when Lady McNair-Wilson ordered a cake in advance for teenager Kate, the youngest of the children, it was brought to the table with her name and birthday wishes inscribed on the icing.

Barter is still used as a way of getting things done, for instance, the rate for the farmer who uses the McNair-Wilsons' corner pasture, as well as cutting and keeping the hay, is 3kg of butter and a smoked ham a year. The only drawback is that as a result rather a lot of ham tends to lurk in the freezer in the farmhouse cellar, since this is not a food particularly liked by the McNair-Wilson family.

Herbs, wine and garlic are among the items brought back to London, and taken abroad on the outward trip have been Coles paints, Zoffany wallpaper (copies of 18th-century French designs), antique fabrics from Wales and old Afghan rugs. Altogether, the sparsely furnished look of the interior decoration, with the accent on simplicity and clear colours, is very much in the French country style. To put this look together,

Lady McNair-Wilson found some good ideas in the book *Mobilier Picard et Artesien*, and although she could not persuade anyone to make loose covers, she found upholstery work done in France cheaper than in the UK.

English daffodil bulbs were also brought over, and now a garden with plants such as hydrangeas and coteasters has been made by Michel Hagouel, who runs a garden centre at Hirson. The cost of bringing the plants, a lorry full of earth and two workers, and of completing the project according to a landscape plan by Lady McNair-Wilson, was just £500. New apple trees have been added to the ancient orchard. Finally, the outbuildings have been cleared of

redundant farm equipment (plus other resaleable finds, including a 1940s car and a rotting chaise-longue), and the house has now been made good with a multitude of structural repairs. Furniture was found at *brocantes* (antiques shops), fabrics such as classic cotton gingham and vintage *toiles de Jouy* were all put to use, and kitchen utensils were bought at a French branch of Habitat, mixed with objects such as blue Valencia glass from the Lakeland Plastics catalogue in England.

Local recipes have been collected, cakes and expensive chocolate are on offer from merchants who call at the house, and Gypsies still put in an appearance — with wicker baskets as their wares.



Interiors: simple but stylish



Chickenfeed: Kate on duty



Fresh: gifts from neighbours

The house is run without cleaning help and Lady McNair-Wilson prefers it this way, although, she says, "it means the spiders work overtime". A gardener has got as far as shaking hands on an arrangement about terms of employment — but is yet to show up for work. Apart from the fact that there is plenty for him to do this summer, Lady McNair-Wilson wants to hear more about another regional speciality from him — not that she intends to actually cook this dish. It is his sister's way with hedgehog: the prickles come away with the clay in which the animal is cooked, leaving, it is said, a dark and tender meat.

Property plus, page 17

Architect of a cottage success story

Neil Sansum makes renovating a house in a French village seem so easy. Now he is sharing his knowledge

I took just one day driving around with a French estate agent for 26-year-old Neil Sansum, an architect from Essex, and his friend, Tony Jones, to find exactly what they wanted: a pair of cottages in a village 50 miles inland from Boulogne.

The property also boasted a brick storage barn and one-acre meadow going for a combined price — including set fees for the estate agent and notary who did the conveyancing — of £32,000.

Property-buying in France is rife with cautionary tales. But this is a cheerful story of how, two-and-a-half years later, Mr Sansum has re-roofed and reconstructed his cottage, painted it, put in a new kitchen and bathroom, made space for a 30ft attic bedroom-studio, replaced rotten beams, rebuilt timber window frames and doors to the original style, and custom-made kitchen units in ash — all for a total cost of £12,000.

That includes the cost of a number of visits to France, allowing £200 for each weekend, and the cost of living there for a few months last summer with his girlfriend to finish structural work and attend to the cosmetics.

Getting to his Gallic bolt-hole takes no more than five hours door to door by car and sea from London. Once there, the air is fresh, the villagers friendly, excellent wine is £2 a bottle, and Louis, who lives across the road, comes over twice a week, bearing gifts of freshly picked vegetables from his garden in return for keeping his sheep in the meadow.

Mr Sansum is now the owner of a sound, modernised, accessible house in France with half shares in a meadow and barn — all for under £50,000. Even allowing for his warning that in France the cost of improvements is not necessarily reflected in the value of property, that has to be a good investment. There seem to be no snags other than that the weather in the Pas de Calais is no better than ours. Could anyone do it?

Not just like that. One reason it

went smoothly for Mr Sansum is that, being an architect himself, he avoided architect's and surveyor's fees and, more important, he knew enough about construction to avoid the difficulties less experienced do-it-yourself renovators get into.

This month he is running a training course, Le Weekend, to pass on some of the know-how he gained when renovating his own cottage: talking about how to cost the work, what permits are needed, how to find and pay local labour, snags and advantages, and generally how to get the job done without going broke or mad, or annoying the French.

This is one of several courses for self-builders organised by Constructive Individuals. The others deal mainly with projects in Britain, from training amateurs in how to fix the electrics, do the plumbing and tile a roof, to putting up the whole house.

"It is just a matter of demystifying the subject," Mr Sansum says. "It is not really difficult." Even finding the ideal pair of cottages in a quiet village, within an hour's drive from Boulogne, was painless. The estate agent drove the two men to a ruined farmhouse (£15,000), a 14-bedroomed chateau (£75,000) that needed another £250,000 for repairs, a few pretty wicks — and then to the cottages. They were single-storey, built of brick about 150 years old for farmworkers. The timbers looked older than the house, probably salvaged from another place, and the inside partitions were made of mud and cow dung. The last occupants had knocked the two into one and lived there for 50 years. It had been empty for three years.

"Originally it was one large cottage and one small one," Mr Sansum says. "We divided it to make it two of equal size, and sorted it out legally. Deciding who should have which side was no problem: Tony preferred the one on the right and I had been going to ask for the one on the left. Like the other houses in the village, it faces the road behind a grass verge, and in summer the area is full of



Framed: rebuilding timber around windows; above, the cottage

colour, with flowering geraniums. "Because I did the survey there were no nasty surprises," Mr Sansum says. "The roof needed retiling. The quarry-tiled floor was sound, but the tiles laid straight on to sand, but the beams in the partition wall went straight into the earth and part of them had rotted. Window frames and the door needed replacing, and I had to put in a bathroom and a kitchen."

Living in a village, Mr Sansum found the best way to find a roofer was to ask the neighbours. This led him to a local man who had a reputation to keep up and who could show the work he had done. "He did not want a deposit, and wouldn't let me pay him until I was completely satisfied," Mr Sansum says. The roofs of both cottages, together with three dormer windows in each, cost £6,000, and

constituted the biggest expense. Thick under-tile insulation was added, for £1,400.

Mr Sansum bought the wood from the village timber yard and put up a partition under the roof, where he has space for a 30ft studio bedroom. The carpenter wanted £600, so he did it himself in two days for £100, the cost of the wood.

Downstairs he used the old beams to make a screen, dividing the 15ft sitting room from the kitchen and dining-room. He had a unit of ash made in London for the Belfast sink, and lined the big fireplace recess in the kitchen with blue, white and burgundy tiles.

He paid another friend, a plasterer, to spend a week rendering the inside walls, which held the bricks together and made the rooms look rustic. He and his girlfriend painted the walls cream, cleaned up the quarry tile floor, lit the new wood stove, hung red velvet curtains, and it started to look like home.

The most important factors are that it is affordable and accessible. Costing the operation, the roof was £3,000, insulation £1,400, and Mr Sansum allows £7,000 for general building costs over three years, which he says is generous and includes at least seven weekend trips a year plus a longer stay of a few months. That also takes in the cost of petrol, the ferry and meals.

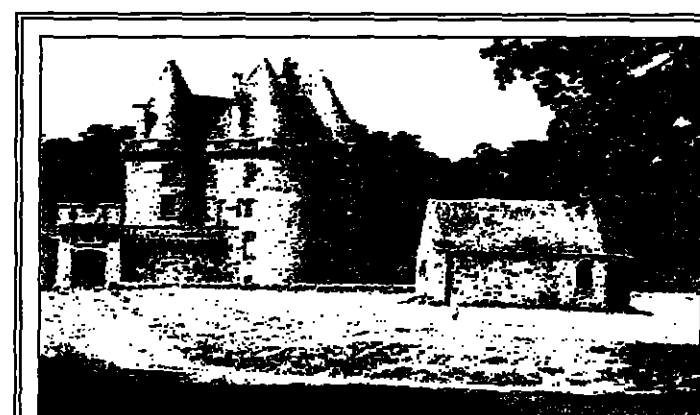
Day-to-day running costs include the annual habitation tax, based on the dwelling area, like local rates. "I pay £90 for about 110 square metres. It will probably increase because I have converted the attic space," he says.

"Water rates on a meter are £10 half-yearly and electricity costs are comparable to ours in the UK. We heat water as we go with a little boiler under the kitchen sink."

Mr Sansum says he was apprehensive at first that the local villagers would dislike a foreigner buying property there. He need not have worried. "Everyone is very friendly because we have made an effort to do something to the house," he says.

YVONNE THOMAS

Le Weekend, project management for renovation in France, organised by Constructive Individuals, is on Saturday June 27, 9am-3pm, and June 28, 9am-4.30pm, in Hambleton, Selby, North Yorkshire. Cost is £250 a person plus VAT, £400 for couples. Meals with a French flavour are included. B2B. For a list of other building courses and bookings, write to: Constructive Individuals, 1 The Cottages, Chapel Street, Hambleton, Selby, North Yorkshire YO8 9JE (01757 228562).



Heap of the week: Landal

Kiss of life needed for sleeping beauty

LANDAL is a sleeping beauty in the Brittany cornfields. Standing in the middle of a large farming estate approached by a rough track, it is a strange enigma. A house with a sound roof, windows and shutters, but no sign of life whatsoever.

The first recorded owners were the family of Montsorel in 1137. From then it passed by marriage to the family of Aubigne, then in 1375 to the Montaubans. Olivier de Montauban was a Marshal of Brittany and Admiral of France.

In 1600 it passed, again by marriage, to the Rochechouart-Mortauts, celebrated in the letters of Madame de Montespan. Only in 1697 was it first sold to Joseph de France, a royal prince, being sold at the revolution as national property.

Its architectural history has been more chequered. Taken first by the English in the 1340s,

it was recaptured by the French in 1354.

During the civil wars of the 16th century the larger part of the house was burnt. It suffered again unusually at the hands of the English in 1758, following a landing at Cancale aimed at devastating the French fleet at St Malo.

In the 18th century the chateau was described as "fortified with five strong towers and half enclosed in large moats. On the other side is a large lake which shuts off the chateau in such a way that it is impossible to approach it without a boat."

Today three of the medieval towers survive, as well as a wing of "offices", built in 1703 by Joseph de France. The large keep is a 19th-century reconstruction as is the battlemented gateway.

MARCUS BINNEY

FRENCH CONNECTIONS

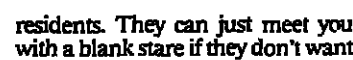


Peter Lilley, MP: "We've had a house in northern Normandy for four or five years and we go there several times a year. It was an impulse purchase — an expensive one — but it's been worth every franc. Brits are in relatively short supply where we are, and we do feel part of the community. One new year a neighbouring farmer called in saying: 'I've just been out hunting. Here's a leg of wild boar and some venison for you.' I can't imagine that happening in England somehow."

In the lap of isolated luxury

Ask the well-travelled inhabitant of any nation: in which country on Earth would you rather live? His answer, according to Thomas Jefferson in 1821, would be: "Certainly, in my own, where are all my friends, my relations, and the earliest and sweetest affections and recollections of my life." But ask inhabitant's second choice and the answer, says Jefferson, would be France.

Mr Holland warns that nearly the entire coast from Marseilles to the Italian border — together with the strip of land behind the coast — is so overrun with tourists at the height of the summer that it can become a nuisance for the second home-owner. The same can be true of the resorts along the western coast. Is it sensible to buy a home *you plan to use only in summer?* "Some people think that it is only after the holidays are over that these places become more pleasant, and



While it is safer to look for properties in areas traditional for the British, it is a pity to overlook those parts of the country which the British have so far avoided. "A word of warning, though," Mr.



Edwina Currie, MP:
"In 1990 I bought a solid
limestone farmhouse with two acres
down in the Loire. It's the end of the
roads and the space that most appeals
to me. France is about two-and-a-half
times the size of the UK with roughly
the same population, which is fairly
evenly scattered throughout. It's a
stick to the departmental roads and
which are wonderful. We came on the
boat one night and I counted 100
miles before we spotted another car."

● **Living in France: The essential guide for property purchasers and residents,** published by Robert Hale, £14.95.

A stone's throw from the house is the Maison d'Amis, once used to make the Calvados and cider which

The property is habitable, but needs modernisation. It has two large rooms with exposed beams and open stone fireplaces, a wash-room and WC on the ground floor; two bedrooms and a small room upstairs, plus a large convertible attic; a beautiful well-stocked garden, attached outbuildings and a garage. The local agent is Michael Mason, an Englishman, whose agency, France Bretagne



The house is four miles from the

nearest village, but the current owner, the book-seller Geoffrey Perkins, says you can buy eggs and cider from the farmers nearby.

Perhaps the house's greatest plus is that after three years of restoration it is ready to move straight into.

R.K.

● Details from the agent, Philip Hawkes (010 331 42 68 11 11).

Immobiliér, is at La Ville Maloisel, Saint-Alban, 22400 Lamballe (010 33 96729320).

Paimpol is an attractive old town with a lively fishing harbour. Trebeurden, Tregestel and Perros-Guirec are all popular resorts, with sailing, windsurfing and other watersports.

Some of the better property buys on the Côtes D'Armor are to be

found a short distance inland from the coast at Le Val Andre, around Lamballe and the medieval village of Moncontour. Old granite houses with sloping slate roofs, mostly requiring substantial renovation, start at £6,000. For £20,000, you can find a four-bedroom village house ready to move into.

An alternative to outright ownership in Brittany would be to join the Holiday Property Bond scheme. The Manoir de Hilguy, near Quimper in Finistère, is one of the properties in the Holiday Property Bond portfolio reserved for the exclusive use of bondholders. The 18th-century manoir has been restored and converted to provide 59 self-catering apartments and cottages in 12 acres of park.

The minimum investment is £2,000, with each pound buying one holiday point. Points can be saved up from year to year. A week's holiday in an apartment sleeping four people at the Manoir de Hilguy can be had for 1,060 points in low season. After two years the bond can be cashed in – less 25 per cent for administration costs – like any other for its redemption value. Holiday Property Bond operates from Villa Owners Club, HPS House, Newmarket, Suffolk (0638 660066).

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19

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Trans World Sport** (p)5662165 **7.00 The Clangers** (2216945) 7.10 **The Wombles** (r) (33983216) 7.15 **Ovide** (2122525) 7.30 **The Buffers** (r) (1178026) 7.55 **Chicken Minute** (s) (3566113) 8.30 **Pugwell** (73397) **9.00 Little Ship** Cartoon musical (6520465)

9.25 **The Sword of Tipu Sultan** Epic Indian drama. In Hindi with English subtitles (8330842)

10.00 **Dispatches** (r) (3621520)

10.45 **News** Cartoon adventures (r) (7705397)

11.00 **Beat That** Milk Scatter! challenges young people to complete a task on a farm (r) (7378)

11.30 **Pilgrimage** A journey of a friendly dolphin (8007)

12.00 **Little House on the Prairie: The Gift** The tribulations of an American pioneer family (93246)

1.00 **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea** Submarine adventure (85674)

2.00 **Athletics** Live coverage of the Pearl UK championships from Sheffield, featuring Lionel Christie, Roger Black, Colin Jackson, Steve Backley and Liz McColgan (9057378)

3.15 **Channel 4 Racing International** Brought Scott introduces live coverage of the Prix du Jockey-Club International from Chantilly, plus highlights of yesterday's Belmont Stakes (5859399)

4.00 **Adventures** The Australian bushbucklers set out to conquer Mount Minto, the tallest mountain in the Admiralty Range, deep in the Antarctic interior (r) (4858)

5.00 **News and weather** (1998216) **5.05 American Chronicles** A series of documentaries from David Lynch and Mark Frost, narrated by Richard Dreyfuss. In the second week of August more than 100,000 bikers converge on Sturgis, South Dakota, for the annual Black Hills *Motor Classic* (s) (9603939)

5.30 **Debbi**, Railways and Maharashtra Varyana (s) (113)

6.00 **Bush Tucker** Mr. Coastal, Les Hiddins takes a trip along the east coast of Cape York, starting at Restoration Island, where Captain Bligh landed in 1789 (246)

6.30 **The Wonder Years** Nostalgic American comedy-drama (s) (378)

7.00 **Kirkby's Kingdom** A tribute to the late Ron Todd, who raised a variety of stock on his Yorkshire farm (r) (5741)

8.00 **Hard News** David Jessel reports on the press coverage of the royal family (12194)

8.30 **Sound Stuff: Piano Legends**
● **CHOICE:** The pianist and composer Chick Corea presents a discursive history of jazz: piano, helped along by archive film of the great exponents in action. Hosting the programme from his own recording studio, Corea is at his best, and he ends up mounting a celebration, as if to acknowledge that jazz is too spontaneous an art to warrant rigorous analysis. That said, Corea gives a useful account of changing styles and techniques, always placing the piano in a wider musical context so as to bring out the influence of other instruments and non-jazz genres. As for the clips, they embrace jazz, anyone who has ever listened to the likes of the boys Powell and Monk — not to mention Ellington, Basie and Peterson — and they always leave you wanting more (s) (28649)



When in Rome: George Cole samples the pasta (8.45pm)

- 8.45 **Root Into Europe.** More comic EC bashing with George Cole as the eccentric xenophobe Henry Root, tonight arriving with the lady wife (Pat Heywood) in Italy and putting Rome to the Root quality test. (Oracle) (s) (358823)
- 9.45 **News with Sue Carpenter.** Weather (262991) 10.00 **LWT Weather** (262552)
- 10.05 **Film: Fathers' Justice** (1985). Sluggish revenge thriller starring Robert Conrad and George Hamilton as fathers who take the law into their own hands when their engaged son and daughter are murdered. With Brooke Bundy and Greg Turrell. Directed by Rod Holcomb (363303)
- 11.50 **Cue the Music.** Eve Pollard tells to the stars at last night's World Music Awards in Monte Carlo, including Kelly Mingoque, Yim Wilde and Ricki Lake (262990)
- 12.40am **The ITV Chart Show.** This week's *Video Vault* features U2 (r) (s) (2949934)
- 1.45 **Film: My Mother's Secret Life** (1984). Loni Anderson stars as a high-class call girl, whose estranged 16-year-old daughter appears out of the blue. With Paul Sorvino and Amanda Wyss. Directed by Robert Markowitz (373156)
- 3.40 **Night Heat.** The Canadian police drama series. The leader of a neo-Nazi organisation is murdered (8204175)
- 4.35 **Pick of the Week** (r) (52919330)
- 5.05 **Sop.** Comedy with the Tates and Campbell (r) (5302885)
- 5.30 **ITN Morning News** (91205). Ends at 6.00

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's face, heavily shadowed and distorted, with a hand visible near the mouth.

The Sandman: homage to German Expressionism (9.30pm)

9.30 Four-Mations UK: A five-week series of British animation films begins with Ged Hane's *The Kings of Siam* and Paul Berry's *The Sandman* (s) (43705)

10.00 Film: *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid* (1987). Overcooked portrait of racial tension and urban decay in 1980s Britain from the *My Beautiful Laundrette* team of writer Hanif Kureishi and director Stephen Frears. Starring Shafiq Kapoor, Frances Barber and Claire Bloom. (Teletext 280026)

11.50 Film: *My Darling Clementine* (1946). Classic Western starring John Ford's winning animation (A54658), followed by David Anderson's *Dreamland* (E937942)

12.25am Film: *Life, Love and Tears* (1984). Moving drama about a young doctor who transforms an old people's hostel into a home from home. Directed by Nikolay Gubenko. In Russian with English subtitles (257972). Ends at 2.15

YORKSHIRE
At London

VS
 London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Agenda
 (1238904) 2.00 The Magical World of Disney
 (1238905) 2.35p Channel 1739044 3.00
 News, Dramas and Screen Machines
 (1238910) 4.00 Gazza - The Fight Back (6216)
 1.00 Trailblazers (5656) 3.30 House Style
 (1671) 6.00-6.30 Gardening Roundups (166)

TYNE TEES
 London except: 12.30pm-12.35p
 News (1238911) 1.00 Highway to Heaven
 (1238913) 3.00 Brambling House, Trials
 (1238914) 4.00 Gazza - The Fight Back (6216)
 1.00 6.00-6.00pm Made in Heaven (16007)
 1.00-1.05p Prisoner: Cell Block Two
 (1238916) 2.00 Night (1238914) 1.15
 The 24th Annual Quiz (22825) 1.15 Twin
 Bets (1238915) 1.15 Twin Bets (1238915)
 1.15 3.30p Journey of the Week (1238918)
 1.15 3.30p The Chase (166624) 2.15-3.15
 3.30p The Chase (1238918)

WILTSHIRE
 London except: 12.30pm-12.35p (Sat-
 12.35p)

YORKSHIRE
 As London except: 9.25am-10.05 Am
 Astoria and Cleopatra (272692) 12.25pm
 News (1238919) 1.00 News at 1.00p
 News (2327776) 2.00 Highway to Heaven
 (123113) 3.00 The Toyota Brambling International
 Three-Day Event (1230934) 4.00 Film
 Story On (1238920) 4.00 News at 4.00p
 News (1238921) 4.00 News at 4.00p
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V Chart Show (860824) 1.50-3.30 Jobs

RADIO 4

Bright. The first two programmes on the economies of East Asia (n)

4.47 Treasure Islands: Michael... why boys don't read books.

Worlding Sam Wanamaker has a dream; to see Shakespeare's Globe being reconstructed near its original site. This week he takes a walk through Shakespeare's London

5.40 Aesthete's Foot: Into the Astroruf. John McKay with

11.00 Pilgrimage. This week's services are broadcast from historic churches in Rome and Assisi.
11.10 The Pilgrims: Christmas edition
11.15 News Stand, with Martin Wainwright (s)
11.30 Pick of the Week, with Chris Rea (s) (r)
12.15pm Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's guest is Duncan Goodheir (s)
1.00 The World This Weekend
2.00 Sunday Question Time
2.30 Gardeners' Question Time
3.00 Saturday Playhouse: Life After Death by Dave Cud. Five members of the Radio Drama Company play an entire episode from childhood to death with Maurice Denham plays the butcher (r) (s)
3.30 The Radio Programme
4.00 The Cuckoo. The programme that, by rights, should never be off the air, is on again this afternoon, in the first of a new series. The show is as much a forecast as the weather forecast of *The World at One*. Radio itself never stops pleasing or annoying, so the programme is a forum in which broadcasting is sensibly debated, should never shut up shop either. The same goes for feedback, the listener's direct line with radio, which keeps coming and going at random. In one vital respect, however, *The Radio Programme* continues. Laurie Taylor is still at the helm
4.00 Analysis: Tiger, Tiger... Burning

6.15 Feedback (r)
7.30 Wonderlands Presents: The world of Lewis Carroll and Rev Clive Dodgson portrayed by Alan Bennett and David Collings (s) (r)
7.00 Who Believes in Britain? Mike Woodhouse mixes adherents of the main religious traditions, and explores the issues facing them in today's society. **3: The Hindus.** Is Hinduism inextricably linked with the culture of India? (s)
7.30 Bookshelf: American author *Mona Simpson* talks to Nigel Bland about her new book *The Last Father*. Tim Parks talks about his life in Verona (s) (r)
8.00 Concert: Michael Collins, the clarinetist, talks to Jane Knob-Mawer about his career and introduces recordings, including the final concerto (s)
9.00 The Natural History Programme: Lionel Calvey reports from Wales on the red kite (r)
9.30 Special Assignment (r)
10.00 News
10.15 Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Spectated Band by Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson (r) (s)
11.00 The Colman Revisted, with Simon Hoggart
12.15 Seeds of Faith: The Way of the Heart, looking at the Sufi tradition in Islam (1 of 3) (s)
12.00 News in 22-20
Weather 12.45 Shipping Forecast 12.45 World Service (LW only)

REQUENCES: Radio 1: 1053kh/285m; 1089kh/275m; FM 97.1-99.9
FM 88-90.2; Radio 3: 1053kh/292.4; Radio 4: 1297kh/51.5m; FM 92.4-93.6; Radio 5: 1053kh/292.4; 90.9kh/320m; BBC 1: 1152kh/226m; FM 97.3-99.9; Radio 6: 1548kh/94m; FM 95.5; GMR: 1458kh/202m; FM 94.5; World Service: M6 648kh/463m.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Headburr**. Feline adventures (r) (8896414) 6.25 **Eurocalc's Castle**. Mustard cream under the sea (7593344) 6.55 **Onion**. Upon a Time... skin (r) (951344) 7.25 **The People's Game**. Brierley World Cup football record (r) (7829051) 7.55 **Trans World Sport** (1941344) 9.00 **News** (8396457) 9.15 **Rating: The Morning Line** (2010186)
- 10.00 **Sign On: Newswatch**. Tessa Depledge and Paul Redfern review events in May for deaf viewers. With signing and subtitles (88322)
- 10.30 **Film: The Old Fashioned Way**. 1914. Based on W. Fields at his group of travelling players. Directed by William Beaudine (8285877)
- 11.45 **Ben Appert**. Bulgarian animated parable about pigswill (6807070)
- 12.00 **Get Smart**. Espionage spoof starring Don Adams (43902)
- 12.30 **Sumo**. How wrestlers move up the ranking list (s) (r) (64525)
- 1.00 **Film: No Time for Tears** (1957). Sentimental drama starring Anna Neagle as a matriarch in a children's hospital. With George Baker and John Gielgud. Directed by John Huston (11436438)
- 3.35 **Channel 4 Racing**. Brough Sport introduces the line-up from Espoon. (2.45) **Beazer Homes** (4.00) **Sales**. (3.15) **London Brick** (Ebbisham Sales) **Handicap**; (4.05) **Gold Seal Oaks**; (4.40) **Crabtree Electrical Industries** **Sales Handicap** (5637435)
- 5.05 **Brookside**. Omnibus edition. (Teletext) (r) (8793902)
- 6.30 **Right to Reply**. Views on the new European regulations on television advertising. (Teletext) (r) (8793902)
- 7.00 **A Week in Politics**. Vincent Hanna and Andrew Ramsley examine John Major's strategy for reversing the Maastricht treaty in the wake of Denmark's referendum defeat (4273)
- 8.00 **Daughters of Eve**. The debate on celibacy in the Roman Catholic priesthood is taken up in this frank and revealing film which features interviews with four women who have had affairs with clergy. According to Derek Warlock, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, cases of errant priests are rare and handled with sympathy. He is also the first to point out that Richard Pope, a solicitor who has acted for several women who have borne priest children. Pope says the church protects its own and the mothers often get a raw deal. One woman tells of spending five years trying to get the father's name on the birth certificate. In a rare moment of humour, a priest who gave up his calling after four affairs turns to a priest in a metaphorical sense. It would be a yellow card, perhaps a red one! (Teletext) (r) (6803)



Pop music on an evolutionary scale: Tom Jones (10.20pm)

10.20 Tom Jones: The Right Time. The first of a six-part series in which Tom Jones traces the colourful and controversial evolution of pop music. Tonight's guests are EMF, Erasure and Shakespeare's Sister (g) (308848)

10.50 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (158815) **10.55 LWRT** (177180)

11.10 1992 World Music Awards. Clifford, Richard, Olivia Newton-John, Kylie Minogue and Tony Hadley are among the presenters of this gala from Monte Carlo celebrating the work of best-selling musicians. Featuring Cathy Dennis, Enya, Right Said Fred and Simply Red (61815)

12.45am The Big E. Magazine for young Europeans (7281991)

1.50 Music from the Bridge. A profile of Erasure (6495823)

2.30 Bhanga Beat Special. The first of two programmes from the Apra Arts Festival in Nottingham, which took place last summer (38026)

3.30 New Music. Pop videos (33571)

3.50 The Hit Man and Her, presented by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan (g) (50262)

5.30 The 1992 Top 100. Ends at 6.00

9.00 Mister Roadrunner
CHORICE: In companion program to his *Walking to New Orleans*, John Hollander sets off on another musical journey, this time to the states of Tennessee and Mississippi. His supposed purpose is a search for the lost chord and throughout his travels he is pursued by a devil and protected by an angel. But despite this pretentious framing the film is basically an excuse to feature a raft of singers who magically materialize on street corners or by the side of railroad tracks. The enterprise has such a contrived air that even Hollander is supposed to spend some time in the hospital. You suspect that the cops are actors planted for the purpose. But among the gags and the stunts the film offers a strong sense of landscape, from Nashville to Memphis, and performances from Charlie Rich, Billy Swan, Mica Paris and others (g) (4525)

10.30 Film: Personal Best (1982) Thoughtful drama starring Mariel Hemingway as an aspiring singer who is given a hard time by her coach and her lesbian lover. With Patricia Donnelly. Directed by Robert Towne. (Telextext) (28061964)

12.55am The Twilight Zone: He's Alive (b/w) Dennis Hopper plays an American inspired by the ghost of Hitler (6098736)

1.50 Film: Muzers in the Zoo (1993, b/w) Chiller starring Liora Atwill as a zoo curator who employs his criminals to murder his wife's

LSTER

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 11.30am Supp (3419) 12.00 Cartoon Time (726) 12.15pm-1.00 Rugby (6595506) 1.15pm-1.30pm The Toyota Bramham International Day Event (1500029) 12.45pm Jake & Fatman (6094910) 1.40 Profile (35419)

S4C
Starts: 6.00am Heathciff (8886419)
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Game (7829051) 7.55 Trans World
(1941341) 9.00 News Summary (833
9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (20
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1977-1980, 4.30, 6.45-7.00, 7.15-7.30

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EDINBURGH · GLASGOW**

News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.40 German Features 5.00 News 5.15
 News 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 Letter From America 6.29 News 6.30
 Minute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 McCartney at 50 8.30 Europa
 is Weekend 9.00 News 9.09 Personal View 9.25 Words of Faith 9.50 Meridian 10.00
 10.30 Show 11.00 News 11.09 News about Britain 11.15 Jazz for the Asking 11.45 Sports
 Roundup 12.00 News 12.05-12.10 Words of Faith 12.10 Book Choice 12.15 A Jolly Good Show
 12.15-12.20 Monday. 1.30 The Ken Bruce Show 2.00 News 2.01 Bits of the Week: Tragic Pro-

Phigeneia in Aulis — in Radio 3's series of operas inspired by the ten-year siege of Troy.

COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAXEY AND SUSAN THOMSON

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM-94.6.

10-1-77

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8 & 100.0-100.7. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; W Service: 1144.6kHz/153m.